THE CONFEDERATE.

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Extortion.

The letter of Mr. Secretary Trenholm is before the country. It bespeaks the pain and anxiety which the action of the Commissioners in Virginia, in assessing high prices in their schedule, caused him, and how much satisfaction he had derived from the subsequent conduct of the farmers and other citizens of that State, who not only refused to avail themselves of this unfair advantage, but rebelled against it, and compelled a modification of the schedule in material particulars.

The earnestness of Mr. Trenholm betokens the importance of the subject: "*We say deliberately—that the struggle to uphold the currency and maintain the national integrity, is as vital to our cause as is the achievement of positive victory over the armies of the enemy.*"

We say further, that all those Commissioners and private citizens who fix inordinate estimates of value on the necessaries of life, to the government and to the people, hinder the cause of independence, and by this hindrance aid the enemy. It may be the mistake of an honest judgment, but it is a woful mistake, full of wrong, injury, and mischief.

North Carolina can not do her whole duty, until she comes forward, as Virginia has done, and relieves herself from the odium which justly attaches to her because of the exorbitant assessment which her commissioners have made—until, by the force of public sentiment, she compels them to adopt a juster and fairer schedule. Yet we are constrained to say, that we have very little encouragement to press these views upon our fellow-countrymen. The spirit of excessive gain seems to predominate; and so far as we can see, no influential citizen in any county seems to feel interest enough in the subject to undertake the mission of reform. No county moves in the matter, and our appeals fall on listless and inattentive readers.

Indeed, we fear to think the evil is *increasing*. We are informed that last year, in a certain county which we will not mention at present, the farmers were patriotic enough to sell even below the assessed prices, and by mutual action they compelled a general adherence at least to *them*. But now this same county, under some decrease of patriotic sympathy, or else under some extraordinary delusion of opinion not only is not content with the price, the exorbitant price of ten dollars a bushel assessed on wheat, but they—the very men who, a year ago, refused to dishonor the national currency—now charge thirty-five dollars, and scruple not to place this common article of food beyond the reach of the soldier's family. In the name of God and humanity, what morality, virtue or patriotism is there in this willful depreciation of one's own government!

There are other men, who are detailed out of service by reason of the execution of a bond to the Government, that they will sell their surplus produce at fixed prices to the Government. A short time ago, when the cry was abroad that starvation was in the land, although we were proving the contrary by a display of the collected tenth, and the exposition thereby of the remaining nine-tenths—then, when the poor were hungry and the soldiers on meagre and stinted rations, when corn was bringing sixty dollars the barrel, these men had none to sell!—the food for the life of man was actually hid away, concealed by christian professors, and now these very men, whose bonds are on file, bring out the old corn to sell at $150 per barrel!

It is well for the Government to search into these matters. We hold, the obligation to sell at Government prices, includes the produce on hand as well as that to be made this year. It was not the intention of Congress to derive a future benefit to the Government merely, from its leniency in refraining to conscript these persons. It was its intention to serve the cause and the country, by keeping producers at home, because they could be more useful: and to make them more useful, it exacted this obligation. These persons had better take heed.

There is another class, who are out of service against the judgment of the army and the people—out of service in great unfairness to the soldier: They are the militia officers and justices of the peace. Among this class there are some producers—and these do not claim a detail as producers and give their bond, but they claim exemption as necessary officers—a Colonel of militia, for example, who has not a private on his roll, or a J. P. without a warrant; and thus exempt, they at once proceed to sell for the biggest figures. It seems they make better crops than other people.—Their "corn stands so thick that it laughs and sings;" and these put it up to one hundred and fifty dollars a barrel; and they shake great rolls of Confederate currency at the enrolling officer with the one hand, and the Governor's certificate of their usefulness and of the necessity of their exemption with the other. These are carrying the "sword in one hand and the olive branch in the other."

While one of these exempts thus paralyses the arm of the Government, an honest neighbor near by, whose boys are in the war, and who married early and is within the age, gets a detail to produce, and HE is fixed down to the Government prices; and thus discontent, dissatisfaction, repining and discord are produced.

We earnestly invoke the attention of the public to this plain view of the situation.—If the people fix a low standard of value on their own currency, and establish the prices of articles for sale according to that standard, they necessarily cause *high* prices and an inflated circulation; and the evil is cumulative, until excessive, intolerable taxation becomes a necessity, or the worse evil, extrication from the burden of debt by the violation of the national faith and by a breach of integrity—a policy ruinous as it is immoral and dishonest.

When the remedy is in the hands of the people, the folly of their misdoing aggravates the offence. Here the remedy *is* with them. Let them have confidence, and manifest it by so fixing *all* prices as though currency were specie; and let a powerful, controlling sentiment hold all men to this conduct. Is there in all North Carolina, no man of influence enough to begin this good work? Where are the great men, the fathers of the State now in retirement? Have they no concern against the evil to come out of the present course of things? Will no body of citizens commence to set the good example in this matter?

The best interest of the country—the interests of the soldier, of their families—appeal to you, fellow-citizens. Your own interests—*self-interest*—urges prompt, decisive action. He or they who missionary this cause successfully, will make a name in history as public benefactors. And what a page for North Carolina's sons and daughters hereafter to read: That *she* stepped forward, and by a noble patriotism led the way out of a grave national error, to the establishment of a wise, just, moral and redeeming policy.

GOV. VANCE'S Proclamation, in this paper goes to the people with an impress of his earnest conviction of the great evil of desertion, and his fixed determination to arrest and terminate it. It speaks the language of pardon and forgiveness, to the misguided who return to their duty and avail themselves of the Executive clemency; but to the criminal who continues in his guilt, and the perpetrator of outrage, it denounces the judgement of the law—which is to be executed by the whole power of the State. It also gives a timely warning to exempts, who are held out of the service by the Executive certificate, that this certificate will be revoked so soon as their usefulness ceases.

The proclamation ought, because of its patriotic purpose, its lenient spirit and its solemn counsel, to effect its object, but we greatly fear that its influence is materially weakened by the seditious counsels which still set at defiance the public peace and safety. So long as the soldier and his family are taught that the war will have no end—that the Government is a despotism that means to perpetuate itself by the power of Provost Marshals—so long as he and they and the people are taught that the popular elections are controlled by bayonets and that the Government is powerless to make peace—in other words, so long as sedition and toryism are permitted to be published, the incentive to the soldier and to the people to love their country, reverence its Government and institutions, and do their duty, is withdrawn—and the incentive to hate it, to abandon its service, and to refrain from performance of duty, is substituted therefor.

Such teaching utterly thwarts the Governor's offers of clemency, and renders force the only alternative. Will the people of North Carolina continue to tolerate these malign influences? Will the Judges take no note of them? If so, it is vain to expect quiet, order and patriotic performance of duty. We have nought to look forward to, but outrage, desertion and murder.

MOSBY'S LAST EXPLOIT.—Mosby's last affair was one of the most brilliant of his eventful career. The editor of Lynchburg *Virginian* has seen a letter from one of his command, which states that with only 250 men, they attacked a Yankee brigade, guarding a train, and captured 414 mules, 30 horses, 150 head of cattle, a lot of clothing, and burnt upwards of 50 wagons. They only encountered a portion of the brigade, as their operations were confined to the rear of the train. Mosby only lost two men, one a Mr. Adie, of Leesburg. The fight took place near Berryville.

Brig. Gen. J. G. Martin has taken command of the "District of Western North Carolina." He gives notice that a "full pardon will be granted to all deserters and absentees who surrender themselves on or before the 10th day of September next." Those who fail to respond to this offer may expect the extreme penalty to be dealt out to them.

APPOINTED.—We are happy to learn that Dr. Pride Jones, of Hillsboro', has received the appointment of Confederate States Marshall for the State of North Carolina, *vice* Wesley Jones, Esq., resigned.

Franklin, hearing the remark that what was lost on earth went to the moon, asserted that there must be a deal of good advice accumulated there.

WEEKLY CONFEDERATE.

VOL. 1. RALEIGH, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 1864. NO. 31.

From the Petersburg Express, of Monday.

FROM THE PETERSBURG FRONT.

THE BATTLE OF FRIDAY—MORE FIGHTING YESTERDAY—CAPTURE OF PRISONERS—THE ENEMY STILL HOLD THE WELDON ROAD—DEATH OF GEN. SAUNDERS.

The engagement of Friday afternoon on the line of the Weldon Railroad was a severe one, but resulted in no material advantage to us, as far as position was concerned. The enemy having advanced his lines some three quarters of a mile from the position occupied by them on Thursday, were attacked and driven back. On Friday night, therefore, the position of the Yankee army was unchanged on the immediate line of the railroad.

In the engagement, however, the enemy was severely chastised, losing two thousand two hundred prisoners, and a large number of killed and wounded. Their loss in killed and wounded is represented to have been very heavy, and to have thickly covered the ground over which our troops charged and fought.—Vast quantities of knapsacks, oil cloths, small arms and plunder of all kinds were thrown away by the Yankees, much of which fell into the hands of our men.

Our own loss was not inconsiderable. We lost some prisoners and a number of wounded, but a small proportion killed. We are gratified to state that the large majority of the wounded are only slightly injured, and will be able to return to their commands in a few days. We noticed many who had received only slight flesh wounds.

On Friday night our force again fell back on the line of the Railroad, and the enemy as soon as they discovered our withdrawal threw forward their lines of skirmishers, and again occupied the fields beyond Davis' house, east and west of the road. They at once threw up breastworks, at the same time continued to strengthen their main line of works on the hills beyond Davis' farm.

Saturday passed without any fighting between the armies—save a little shelling and picket firing, but it was generally thought that yesterday would be an eventful day, and everybody was prepared to hear the opening thunders of battle at early dawn. A heavy fight did occur, but the battle for the possession of the railroad is yet to be fought, and the signs are that it will be a bloody one.

Early in the forenoon yesterday, our line of battle was formed east and west of the railroad, and an advance ordered. The troops, as Confederate troops always do when going into battle, moved forward in beautiful order, and the finest of spirits, to the work before them. Over ground on which they had twice fought before, they fought again, and with like success, driving the enemy out of their front line of breastworks, back upon their main line, and capturing three hundred prisoners. The enemy did not retire without giving battle, and the ground was hotly contested for the space of an hour or two, before they were forced back. In the meantime, the enemy's artillery was throwing shell and canister at our ranks, and our batteries in the rear were replying. We regret to learn that a number of our troops were killed and wounded by our own batteries, on a portion of the line. The enemy's main works on the railroad were adjudged too strong to attack, and our troops, therefore, hold their second line of entrenchments.

In the meantime, a more important movement was started towards the enemy's extreme left—about one mile west of the railroad. A body of our troops, acting in conjuction with others, was sent down on the Vaughan Road, some three or four miles from the city, to reconnoitre the enemy's position in that direction and ascertain their strength there, with a view to further movements.

The expedition was entrusted to a most skillful and gallant officer, with men upon whom he could depend. It was discovered that the Yankees had extended their lines west to the Vaughan Road, in the direction of Poplar Springs church, and were rapidly fortifying. An effort, we learn, was made to turn their flak and dislodge them, which did not prove successful. The outer works were carried, but the inner were found to be of such great strength, and so heavily armed with artillery as to render their capture a matter of doubt, without great loss of life—Some advantages were gained, we learn, at a considerable cost in killed, wounded and missing, which were subsequently yielded.—The loss at this point will probably reach several hundred.

The brave Gen. John C. C. Saunders, of Alabama, was killed here while leading his men in a charge. He was one of the most promising officers of the army, and has been conspicuous for his gallantry on many fields.

The position of the enemy, as nearly as we are able to judge is about this. Their centre rests upon the Weldon railroad, about three miles from the city, their right extending across the wooded country to the Jerusalem Plank road on the east, and their left to the Vaughan road on the west. Along this whole line they have strongly fortified themselves, and works of great strength have sprung up like magic. In their rear, on the line of the railroad and on both sides, they have thrown up heavy works to provide against flank movements. At the Yellow Tavern, and the Gurley House, heavy batteries of guns are planted. At every point open to attack, they are strongly fortified.

Warren's corps, which first occcpied the railroad, have been heavily reinforced within the last two nights. Hancock's (second) and Burnside's (ninth) corps have reached the road, and now confront our troops, numbering in the aggregate fully thirty thousand men.

The Yankees have been busy in destroying the railroad, and reports say that the track is torn up to and beyond Reams' Station—a distance of ten miles from the city. Parties from the rear, who arrived in town yesterday, state that the Yankee cavalry under the notorious Speer, were engaged in destroying the track one mile beyond Reams' yesterday morning.

LATER.

We learn that in addition to the strong character of the fortifications on the enemy's left, which were assaulted by our flanking column, one of the main causes of the repulse was the giving away at a very critical moment of a brigade, which caused considerable confusion and gave the enemy a great advantage. Our troops were compelled to retire after capturing a line of the enemy's skirmishers and reaching their strongest works.—Col. Lamar, of Florida, was mortally wounded.

DEMONSTRATION ON THE LEFT.

About 11 o'clock yesterday morning, the enemy made a strong demonstration on our left, on the City Point road, with a view to ascertain the strength of our forces at that point. The firing of artillery and musketry was very rapid for half an hour. At the same time a heavy shelling was opened by the enemy all along the lines in Prince George, but nothing was accomplished.

FROM GEN. EARLY.

An intelligent gentleman from Gen. Early's army, who left our main camp on Thursday last, informs the Charlottesville *Chronicle* that our entire loss in the affair at Moorfield will not exceed two hundred, and will probably fall under it. Our forces were dispersed, and the men are continually coming in.—Bradley Johnson is blamed in the army. It was a surprise. We lost four pieces of artillery, two belonging to the Baltimore Light Artillery, one to Jackson's Artillery and one to McLanahan. We also lost some five or six hundred horses, and our wagons.

He tell us the army are in the very finest plight—the men in fine health, and in the best spirits. The horses, which were somewhat fagged by the long and continued marches, were replenished in Maryland. The soldiers in the same quarter procured clothing and shoes; and they are getting an abundance of good food in their present quarters.

He states that he does not know, but thinks it probable that the Second and Fifth Federal army corps are in the Valley.

From the Richmond Dispatch of Monday.

Below Richmond.

Nothing of importance has occurred on the north side of James river, below Richmond, since the reconnoissance on Thursday. The two corps sent over by Grant, it is ascertained, have recrossed to the south side, leaving only the division commanded by Foster, which has been at Deep Bottom for some time past. The firing heard on Friday evening was the enemy's gunboats shelling Howlett's field, a position in which they supposed the rebels had erected a battery. It was without effect, save an useless expenditure of Yankee ammunition.

Northern papers of the 17th assert that the object of the movement on the north side of the James was to destroy the rebel pontoon bridges above "Fort Darling," as they call Drewry's Bluff; while papers of the 18th are quite as positive that it was only a reconnoissance to ascertain the strength of the Confederates in that quarter. We do not believe either of these stories. It is much more likely that it was a feint to draw General Lee's troops from the front of Petersburg. But whatever it was, it proved a miserable failure, and adds one more to the catalogue of Grant's "brilliant movements" (over the left) in this campaign.

One day last week, the Yankee pickets in the neighborhood of Dutch Gap opened fire upon our picket line, when two of our gunboats, being in the vicinity, concluded to take a hand. Consequently, they commenced throwing shells promiscuously in the direction of the Yankees. One of the missiles struck the enemy's pontoon bridge near Dutch Gap and set it on fire, burning several of the boats of which it is composed. This Confederate salute seemed to cause considerable consternation among the Yankees.

The enemy is still engaged in digging the canal across the neck of land known as Dutch Gap. To those who are acquainted with its topography, this will appear to be a work of no small magnitude, but unless some plan can be devised to put a stop to their operations, it will be accomplished.

FROM THE VALLEY.

At length we have some definite information from General Early's command, in the Valley of Virginia. An official dispatch, received at the War Department, states that a portion of our forces in the Valley crossed the Shenandoah at Front Royal on the 16th, and drove the enemy's cavalry, which retreated towards Winchester, burning the hay and wheat stacks in their route. On the 17th, Sheridan began to retire from his position, was pursued, and two divisions of the Sixth corps, with a large force of cavalry, were overtaken at Winchester and driven through the town, losing over two hundred prisoners. The enemy fell back towards Harpers's Ferry.

Front Royal, the point at which the Shenandoah was crossed, is situated in the extreme southeastern angle of Frederick county, twenty miles from Winchester, in a valley between the river and the Blue Ridge, near the junction of the counties of Culpeper, Fauquir and Shenandoah. Strasburg, from whence Sheridan commenced his retreat, is in the northern part of Shenandoah county, on the north branch of the Shenandoah river, immediately on the main road from Woodstock to Winchester, and eighteen miles south of the latter place.

It is stated (not officially) that Sheridan's entire force in the Valley amounts to 41,000 men. His retirement from our front to Harper's Ferry may be regarded as a prudential measure on his part.

It is reported that on Thursday, the 18th instant, General Early captured five hundred prisoners near Winchester, and was still in pursuit of the enemy.

FROM FLORIDA.

The following official dispatch, announcing a successful affair in Florida, was received at the War Department yesterday:

"CHARLESTON, August 20.—Capt. Dickinson, with a greatly inferior numerical force, engaged the enemy's cavalry and artillery at Gainesville, Florida, on the 18th, and completely routed them, capturing one hundred and fifty prisoners, one piece of artillery and one hundred stolen negroes. The enemy was pursued fourteen miles and scattered. * *

SAM. JONES, Major General.

Boswell complained to Johnson that the noise of the company the other day made his head ache. "No, sir, it was not the noise that made your head ache; it was the sense we put in it," said Johnson. "Has sense that effect upon the head?" inquired Boswell. Yes, sir, on heads that are not used to it."

Latest News from the North.

From the New York *Herald* of the 19th instant, we get the following interesting summary of news:

Gold opened at 267, advanced ⅛ per cent., and fell at the close to 267⅜.

The *Herald's* money article says:

The statement of the national debt for the week ending the 16th instant, shows an increase in the sum total of no less than $17,764,720, making in all $1,949,71[illegible],555. The balance in the Treasury has declined two millions, leaving $14,674,359.

Virginia 6's are quoted in New York at 55½; Missouri 6's 68.

PEACE CONVENTION AT SYRACUSE, NEW YORK—THE CHICAGO NOMINEE TO BE COMMITTED TO AN ARMISTICE AND CONVENTION OF STATES—SPEECHES OF MR. VALLANDIGHAM AND FERNANDO WOOD.

The Mass Peace Convention met in Syracuse, New York, on the 16th. There was a large attendance. The most prominent men present were Vallandigham, ex-Governor Weller, of California, Fernando Wood and Judge Ouderdonk, and a number of others.—After spirited speeches from Vallandigham and Fernando Wood, the Convention adopted an address and resolutions, which we will publish to-morrow.

Mr. Vallandigham was the principal speaker on this occasion. His speech was strongly for peace. Referring to the war, and contending that peace could never come by the sword, he said:

War has been tried. The President has had all the men and all the money he demanded. Never was there such an example of submission by a people. Nothing has been wanting that constitutional power conceded or that audacious usurpation could take from the people. And what is the result? With more battles fought by the three greatest conquerors of the world in any five years of their power, is the Union restored? No. A single State brought back? No. Is the constitution maintained or observed? No. Are our liberties respected? No. Have we had a free press, free assemblages, the right of *habeas corpus* or arrests by due process of law? No, no. How is it in a material point of view? A debt of nearly four thousand millions, a daily expenditure of nearly five millions, and a currency worth about thirty-eight cents on the dollar, which two months ago was worth one hundred per cent. more than it is now, and which two months hence will be worth one hundred per cent. less. Ruin is impending; and now, in the fourth year of the war, what better is the prospect of success by war? We failed in 1861 and 1862, not for want of courage; for no braver men ever went to battle. The campaign of 1863 opened under more auspicious circumstances, and we were told that the rebellion would be speedily crushed out by force of arms; but the end of that year found us but little advanced. The campaign of 1864 opened with the largest armies the war had yet seen—those armies, composed largely of three years' veterans—and concentrated for attack on two or three vital points, and with what result? Let the record of carnage and blood answer.

Having tried war so long, shall we now try some other means? He was for trying conciliation and compromise. We submitted to a necessity. You have had your trial. You have tried war for four years; now let us try our plan.

To-day it is not a war for the Union or under the constitution, and the eyes of the people are being opened to this fact. Hence it is that through all the States the cry for a cessation of hostilities is being loudly uttered. He regarded the call for five hundred thousand more men as a confession that the war is to be prolonged through 1865. If you send more men demand that the war shall be successful and conducted to the end for which alone it was inaugurated. In June last, in his Philadelphia speech, Mr. Lincoln said this war would continue at least three years longer, Elect him and you are committed to that policy. There is but one way of avoiding such a calamity, and that is by a change of President through the ballot-box.

At Chicago we propose to nominate a candidate who will inspire the confidence of the people; a statesman imbued with love of liberty and respect for the constitution, and all its guarantees and reservations. He expected that the candidate would be committed to a suspension of hostilities and a convention of the States; that is what a vast majority of the delegates of the Northwest are committed to. As to men, we have no special choice. Let us be united, disregarding all personal and minor considerations for the sake of the cause, and if successful, we will have rescued the constitution and secured to ourselves and our children civil and political liberty. Arbitrary arrests, military trials and the suspension of the writ of *habeas corpus*, as well as of the press, will close forever in the United States. He believed a reunion of the States possible. The South has proposed, through her press and through agents, to meet us to see if we cannot agree, so that peace and prosperity will be once more restored to the country.—They, too, are tired and weary of the war. They, too, want an armistice and a convention.

The next speaker was Hon. Fernando Wood. He reviewed the history of the government for the last four years, referring to the overtures for a cessation of hostilities as made through himself two years ago, the effort of Vice President Stephens to get to Washington, and the recent conference of Mr. Greeley with the rebel commissioners at Niagara Falls, as evidence that the South is tired of the war and wants peace. The North, too, wants peace, and this, he said, would be attained through the success of the Democracy this fall, followed by an armistice and a convention of all the States, to consider and reconcile the differences existing between them.

Ex-Gov. Weller, of California, also spoke. He reviewed at some length the history of the administration, denounced as arbitrary and unconstitutional many of its acts, and expressed himself in favor of an armistice and convention of the States, believing that the people of both sections want peace, and are determined to have it. He was followed by a number of others, when the meeting adjourned.

THE CONFEDERATE.

ADVERTISING.

ADVERTISEMENTS will be inserted at THREE DOLLARS per square of ten lines (or less) for each insertion. Marriage notices and obituaries will be charged as advertisements.

JOB WORK.

JOB WORK of every description will be executed at this Office with dispatch, and as neatly as can be done anywhere in the Southern Confederacy.

Why Chambersburg was Burnt.

According to a letter from Maryland in the New York *Herald*, the burning of Chambersburg, Penn., over which the whole South rejoiced, was done in retaliation for the burning of the houses of four gentlemen in the Valley, which vandal acts were committed by order of Fiend Hunter. The letter writer in the *Herald* says that "just before leaving Williamsport General Early made some public remarks in regard to the burning of Chambersburg, which are of interest. He said that he ordered $100,000 in gold to be demanded of the town; and that if the demand was not complied with in three hours the town was to be burned; that the sum of money demanded was to reimburse Andrew Hunter, Wm Lucas, E. J. Lee and Hon. Alexander R. Boteler, for their losses caused in the destruction of their property by order of General Hunter, and that he felt perfectly justified in the course he had pursued. He explained how General Hunter had burned the house of his (Hunter's) cousin, in Jefferson county, Virginia, and taken that cousin (Andrew Hunter) off as a prisoner, and said that the act was a brutal one, because the inmates of the house were not allowed time to save even a portion of their clothing. In concluding, he said it would be the future policy of the rebel government to retaliate in the severest manner for all barbarities practiced against them. He delivered these remarks in a calm, firm manner. In a private conversation he said that no man more than himself deprecated the necessity of such an act as the one committed at Chambersburg, but that he sanctioned it, believing he was doing his duty to those people who had suffered by General Hunter's orders; and again, because he believed that by retaliation such barbarous practices would be sooner discontinued than in any other way. He was particularly severe on General Hunter, and said that, should he fall a prisoner into their hands, his lot would be a hard one."

We are glad to see it announced by General Early that our Government has determined even at the eleventh hour, to retaliate to the full all acts of barbarity that the enemy may commit. We trust that this policy will be carried out without flinching, for while we, in common with every humane minded man, deprecate the cause which necessitates such retaliation, it is one over which our government can have no control, and which can only be removed by the enemy conducting the war on civilized principles. General Early has taught them this in a fearful lesson if 'tis true, and by "the light of the burning houses of Chambersburg," the northern people will see that two can play at the game of destruction.

The following is a copy of the order under which Gen. McCausland burned the town of Chambersburg:

HEADQUARTERS,
ADVANCE FORCE, C. S. A.,
July 29, 1864.

To the Municipal Authorities of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania:

The houses of Andrew Hunter, Esq., Alexander R. Boteler, Esq., and Edmund J. Lee, Esq., citizens of Jefferson county, Virginia, having been burned by order of the officer commanding the Federal forces in the department called the "Department of West Virginia," I have directed that you pay for the said houses, to be handed over to the owners, the sum of $100,000 in gold, or its equivalent; or, if that cannot be produced, $500,000 in currency Northern funds. In default of the payment of this money, your town is directed to be laid in ashes, in retaliation for the burning of said houses and other houses of citizens of Virginia by Federal authority.

(Signed) J. A. EARLY,
Lieutenant General, C. S. A.

PETERSBURG, Aug 20th, 1864.

To the Editors of the Confederate: In a Petersburg paper, a few days ago, I was most happy to see the earnest appeal made by yourselves to the good people of the Old North State, in behalf of the suffering citizens of the patriotic city of Petersburg, also in behalf of the refugees now in different directions, having been driven from their homes in the adjacent counties, (specially Chesterfield and my native county, Prince George. Many who were rich and enjoying all the comforts of this life, are now reduced to poverty; and some to want.—Many now remaining in my county, once *well off*, are drawing rations from the abominable Yankees. I sincerely hope that all portions of the Southern States which have not suffered, and have *plenty now*, will lend a liberal and speedy hand to alleviate the wants of the distressed refugees, in these times of want, scarcity, and high prices.

Please give this an insertion in your valuable paper, and request others, in aid of suffering humanity, to copy, and oblige yours truly,

A REFUGEE NOW IN PETERSBURG.
from Prince George Co., Va.

LATEST "GRAPEVINE" NEWS.—A report has been received in this place, to the effect that 400 Yankees were captured at Jasper, Pickens county, on Sunday night, by a portion of Wheeler's command.—*Athens Watchman*

Courage does not consist in feeling no fear, but in conquering fear. He is the hero, who seeing the lions on their sides, goes straight on, because there his duty lies.

Three things appear to be uninjured by the Fall—the songs of birds, the beauty of flowers, and the smiles of infancy, for it is difficult to conceive how either of these could have been more perfect had men remained holy; as if God would leave us something pure to remind us of the Paradise we have lost, and to point us to that which we shall regain.

We return thanks to those of our subscribers who have paid or promised to pay their subscriptions in provisions, wood, &c., at all rates. We are ready to trade with any one who pleases to do so in "the old way."—*Charlotte Democrat.*

We should like to get some of our subscribers to pay us in the same *coin*. Who will first "propose?" Don't all speak at once.—EDS. CONFEDERATE.

A footman learned from his master that mal-apropos meant out of place. Subsequently, meeting a brother footman who had been discharged, he exclaimed—"Ah, my dear fellow; I am extremely sorry for you. I understand you are mal-apropose."

THE CONFEDERATE.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 1864.

Deserters.

The proclamation of Governor Vance, while it promises to those who have deserted from their post that if they return voluntarily to duty, within the next thirty days, a full pardon, unless "they have been guilty of capital felonies against the lives and property of the citizens," it warns those who neglect this offer, of the extreme penalty that awaits them; and it furthermore informs them that the whole power of the State will be employed to secure their capture. In other words, it is a declaration of war against desertion in North Carolina; and we know that the Governor is taking steps to enforce his proclamation. But this admirable document has a further significance than this: It assures the aiders and abettors that the law will be enforced against them in the State courts.

Now, what is the law against aiding and abetting desertion? We publish it herewith, that all may see it:

DESERTERS.

An Act to Punish aiders and abettors of Deserters.

Section 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That any person who shall knowingly aid, assist, harbor or maintain, under any pretence whatever, any deserter from the military service of the State, or of the Confederate States, shall be guilty of a high misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof in the Superior Court, shall be fined, or imprisoned, or both; in the discretion of the Court, the fine not to exceed five hundred dollars, nor the imprisonment to exceed four months.

Sec. 2. Be it further enacted, That any person who shall, under any pretence whatsoever, knowingly aid, assist, harbor or maintain any person enrolled and ordered to report for duty as a conscript, in refusing to obey such order, shall be guilty of a high misdemeanor, and upon conviction in the Superior Court, shall be fined or imprisoned, or both, in the discretion of the Court, the fine not to exceed five hundred dollars, nor the imprisonment four months.

Sec. 3. Be it further enacted, That for the purpose of enforcing the conscript law of the Confederate States and arresting deserters and conscripts, the Governor shall have power to call out the militia.

Sec 4. Be it further enacted, That this act shall have force from its ratification.

Ratified the 7th day of July, 1864.

The Judges (some of them) in charging the Grand Jury on the duty of investigating as to the commission of this offence, have charged that it was incumbent to prove, first, that the party aided was a soldier in service, or a person enrolled; next, that it was incumbent to be proved that such soldier had deserted. We have heard this charge given in this loose, vague manner, so loose and vague as to leave the Grand Inquest uninformed what kind and measure of proof should satisfy them. The deduction drawn is, that this proof must consist of positive evidence of the enlistment or enrolment, and of the want of a furlough.

It would have been well for the Judge to go on, and state to the Jury that there are circumstances that warrant them in drawing the inference of the offence from the conduct of the parties: As, when a man wearing the appearance of a soldier, or known to be in the service, visits or remains for an unusual length of time at home, at his parents', or elsewhere, supported, not having the appearance of ill-health, or of being disabled; this is the case for the examination of the Grand Jury; for if the parties be brought before the body, the soldier can at once exonerate the suspected person; for he can show his furlough and the action of the proper medical authority to whom he is required from time to time to report.

Grand Jurors should pursue this course in regard to every case where they know, or have reason to believe, a soldier has over-stayed his time; for, in such a case, when a soldier may have had a furlough, if he avails himself of it to remain away after it expires, and disregards the instructions for obtaining its extension, this will be desertion.

So, if any person having the appearance of a soldier, though not known, still more if known to be a soldier, appear in a neighborhood in a clandestine manner, if there be any appearance of concealment by those who contribute to his support; if he remain in unusual retirement, or if there be any suspicious appearance about his presence in the neighborhood, it is the duty of the Grand Jury to examine the case, and by bringing the person himself before them put him to the proof of showing his furlough; for the Grand Jury is a body for enquiring into the commission of crime, and may commence its investigation on bare suspicion.

But there are persons who do not aid or maintain the deserter after he deserts, but who cause his desertion. These are the seditious publishers of articles abusive of the Governments—State and Confederate—of gloomy articles exaggerating falsely the evils of the war and its probable continuance—who falsely assert that the popular elections are controlled by force and fraud—that the Government means to perpetuate itself by its military instruments, &c. Such persons are guilty of crime; and it is the duty of Grand Jurors to bring them to punishment.

Now let us see what is Sedition. It is a common law offence, and it is defined to be either verbal or real. Verbal, or the uttering of words tending to create discord between the Government and the people. Real by convocating a considerable number of people without lawful authority, under the pretence of redressing some public grievance to the disturbing of the public peace.

We do not pretend to set out the limits for the discussion of the political acts of administrations, nor to seek to confine the legitimate freedom of the press. We only mean to speak of what every fair mind will at once comprehend to be within the definition of the crime sedition, as we have quoted it: The uttering of words tending to create discord between the Government and people.

In time of peace it is well to give broad scope to the freedom of speech, and not to note its slipping into license, because the Government is able to take care of itself, and the evil of curtailing free speech is greater than that which may be apprehended from its licentious exercise. But in time of war, when a people are invaded, and their all periled, then the safety of society requires a restraint upon licentiousness. Compare with the definition of sedition such publications as these:

"We have seen the thing of trying to vote against bayonets;" thereby meaning that the popular elections are controlled by Governmental force. "We consider Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Davis fairly seated in their respective chairs during the war, or for life; with their Provost marshals at every town and village, and the whole people declared to be in the military service—the people will sustain them." Thereby meaning that the head of our Government is a despot who means to violate the constitution, and hold his office for life, by military force, and that the people are so in subjection to this force that they will sustain it.

"And so you think they'll take militia officers and justices of the peace? Of course they will; every one of them between the ages of 18 and 45, with the exception of a few favorites, will be in the army before the first of March; and as they have but recently voted to "sustain the Government," and continue the war, we see no reason why they should not take a hand." Thereby meaning to have the people believe that the Government places men and officers of the State in the army as a punishment for their exercise of the right of suffrage.

"And do you see no end to this thing? None. Mr. Davis cannot make peace, for we have no idea that the federal Government will ever consent to treat with him." Thereby meaning to have the people believe that they must substitute some other mode of negotiation with the enemy than through the Government, or have interminable war.

Now, do such publications inspire discord between the people and the Government? If so, they are *seditious* and *criminal*. But they do much more. They lead good citizens to oppose the war for independence which we are waging; they lead men to withold from the Government the means of carrying it on; they stimulate men to avoid the military service; they stimulate the soldier already in service to desert, and they hinder those who have deserted from repenting and returning to duty. They thus greatly increase the amount of desertion and they render force necessary to be employed to arrest the deserters. *These publications therefore, introduce civil war into the State.*

But where and how are these crimes cognizable? We answer, in every county in which such publications are put in circulation. Say that the paper publishing such articles is printed in Raleigh, and is sent by its publisher to Mecklenburg, Warren, Halifax, Edgecombe, Granville, Cumberland, New Hanover, or elsewhere. It is sedition committed in the county where the publication is put in circulation. And if such publications are found in the counties we have mentioned, or others, it is the duty of the Grand Jurors to investigate the matter and have justice done in the premises. It would be well to settle the question what is sedition by such a course.

FOR THE BENEFIT OF SOUTHERN PRISONERS.—A fair for the benefit of Confederate prisoners of war at the North, is to be held in London, England, in October, under the patronage of Her Imperial Highness the Princess Murat, the Marchionesses of Bath, Lothian and Ailesbury, Countess of Chesterfield, and other distinguished ladies. It is suggested that the ladies of the South may send to this fair specimens of their handiwork for sale.—Such contributions may be sent to the *Mercury* office, Charleston, South Carolina, and they will be forwarded to London.

A UNIFORM SCALE OF PRICES.—A Charlotte paper learns, from an official source, that in response to the suggestions of the Commissary General of Subsistence, C. S. A., the merchants and shopkeepers, in Charlotte, will hereafter pay a uniform price and no more, for all subsistence offered for sale in that market.

We are opposed to combinations and associations having for their object to force persons to pay more or less for an article or object than what is a fair and liberal equivalent; but when extortionate or unreasonable demands are made for articles that all are compelled to have, self-protection and common equity justify some such move as the above. The high scale of prices in the Raleigh market, calls for some action here.

EXTRAORDINARY.—A girl in Paris lately turned her head around with such a jerk that she broke her neck. A French surgeon soon after gave it a twist, the vertebræ was replaced, and the girl got well.

MORE EXTRAORDINRY STILL.—In Raleigh there are girls who turn other heads with such jerks that they break their *hearts*, and there isn't a Surgeon in the whole place who can "give 'em a twist" and "replace the vertebræ." But the girls do this, also, with a skill more than surgical. Let the French Surgeon subside.

Some Yankee editors are under the impression that the "Rebels" in the Trans-Mississippi Department are endeavoring to cross the Mississippi, while others seem to think that a portion of Kirby Smith's forces are already *en route* to Hood's army. Some persons who live on this side the Potomac, and who pretend to be posted about such matters, are of the same opinion.

Mr. Trenholm.

Mr. Secretary Trenholm is before the public in another short but pregnant and valuable letter. Except the President, there is no man in the civil department of the Government who is doing so much to inspirit and elevate the popular hope and confidence as Mr. Secretary Trenholm. We did not participate in the heavy fault-finding which was the fashion against his predecessor. Mr. Memminger was a man much and unjustly abused by the public. He never had a fair showing; and inasmuch as no measure of his ever passed Congress, and inasmuch, furthermore, as he opposed the measures which did pass and did control him, he is not only not responsible for his failure, but it has been imposed on him by a power that he could not resist. The appreciation of him by the President, is an assurance of his worth; for President Davis has not made a mistake, except when he has been falsely dealt with.

But more particular circumstances surround Mr. Trenholm. He comes to the head of a Department with the reputation of a man who has led the way in the very darkest and gloomiest and most hopeless hour of the Confederacy, to assume those responsibilities which have led to her success. His house embarked in the business of furnishing from abroad the absolute necessaries of the Confederacy, when it was at least not a hopeful enterprise, and at a time when it was all-important that some name should be able to give weight and confidence to contracts in European markets. Happily, Mr. Trenholm's house combined the influence of a house sufficiently foreign to inspire the European confidence, and sufficiently known at home to disarm the natural suspicion. It was thus enabled to perfect much good and realize the just and natural profit.

And Mr. Trenholm comes to the head of the Treasury Department with an adaptation to its necessities. In the very most unpropitious hour of the national prospects, he and his house embarked in a hazardous enterprise, for the benefit of the Republic. If he coupled therewith an individual benefit, it detracts not an iota from the merit of the undertaking.—By his bold assurance, his indefatigable industry, and his risks, he has largely contributed to the foreign financial recognition of the Confederacy. And now he comes forward with a just and full profit from a legitimate and hazardous enterprise, to stake his gains upon the success of the Confederacy, and by the assumption of a high official connection with its government, to give the force of his estimate of its worth and stability.

And he takes early advantage of his position to impress the public with this confidence.—He writes every where, "stand by the Government—encourage Congress to do their duty manfully, and there is not the slightest danger about the public debt."

He admonishes the people, as a true friend, as we have done, "do not buy property at ten times what it will bring when the war is over, while foreigners are buying your 6, 7 and 8 per cent. bonds and carrying them abroad."

Listen to this wise counsellor. Listen to this experienced financier. Listen to this disinterested lover of his country, that would extricate you from national embarrassment.—And oh, ye citizens of North Carolina, ye old and wise; ye young and enterprising, "back up" this new officer, and help him to obtain the popular confidence. It is in your interest; and that of your State and country. Pass on his able practical letters to the public, to be read by all men:

ANOTHER LETTER FROM SECRETARY TRENHOLM.

The Augusta *Constitutionalist* publishes the following letter from the new Secretary of the Treasury:

TREASURY DEPARTMENT C. S. A.,
Richmond, Aug. 15, 1864.

Campbell Wallace, Esq., President, Augusta, Georgia:

SIR: I am greatly obliged by your letter of the 8th inst., which is conceived in the true spirit of a patriot. If the people stand by the Goverment and encourage Congress to do their duty manfully, there is not the slightest danger about the public debt. Our people are committing an act of great folly to be buying property of all kinds at ten times what it will bring when the war is over, while foreigners are buying their 6, 7 and 8 per cent. bonds and carrying them abroad. These bonds will bring more in specie when peace comes than they are bringing now in currency, and we will have to pay these strangers in full whether we wish or not; whereas, if we kept the bonds at home, we would get back all the taxes collected to pay the interest. I am trying to pay for all foreign supplies out of the profits on cotton, and we have nothing to buy with bonds and Treasury notes but flour, corn, meat and manufactured goods, and to pay transportation to railroads. If we break down under such circumstances, it will be our own fault, and we will deserve nobody's compassion or sympathy.

Yours, respectfully,
G. A. TRENHOLM,
Secretary of Treasury.

A GOOD RULE.—A certain rich man, who is very rich now, was very poor when he was a boy. When asked how he got his riches, he replied: "My father taught me never to play till my work was finished, and never to spend my money until I had earned it. If I had an hour's work in a day, I must do that the first thing, and in an hour. And after this I was allowed to play; and then I could play with much more pleasure than if I had the thought of an unfinished task before my mind. I early formed the habit of doing everything in time, and it soon became easy to do so. It is to this I owe my prosperity." Let every one who reads this do likewise.

A goose flies by a chart which the Royal Geographical Society could not mend. A true poet, like the goose, sails, without visible landmarks, unexploded regions of truth which philosophy has yet to lay down upon its atlas. The philosopher gets his track by observation; the poet trusts to his inner sense, and makes the straighter and swifter line.

Peace Convention at Syracuse, N. Y.

THE CHICAGO NOMINEE TO BE COMMITTED TO AN ARMISTICE AND CONVENTION OF STATES.

The Mass Peace Convention met in Syracuse, New York, on last Thursday. There was a large attendance. The most prominent men present were Vallandigham, Ex-Governor Weller, of California, Fernando Wood and Judge Onderdonk, and a number of others. After spirited speeches from Vallandigham and Fernando Wood, the Convention adopted the following address and resolutions:

THE ADDRESS.

Fellow-Citizens—The State Central Committee, appointed by and representing the Peace Democracy of the State, which met in the city of New York on the 3d of June, 1863, beg leave to report that they have discharged the duties imposed upon them, and ask to be discharged. They cannot, however, relinquish the trust without congratulating the Peace Democracy of the State upon the change which has occurred in public opinion. Although we have anticipated that the merits of the cause would speedily vindicate itself, we were not prepared for such a general and wide-spread recognition of this fact as is now becoming apparent. Two years ago, when we first took open grounds against the further prosecution of the war as repugnant to fraternity and Christianity, and as tending to certain disunion, we did so amid the taunts and accusations of former political friends, and with hazard of life, liberty and property. We were denounced as traitors and incendiaries. Others who participated in our views were likewise classed with the enemies of their country, and the few public men who upheld our doctrines were pursued with an unrelenting partizan hate, and the inquisitorial prescription of a tyrannical, benighted and intolerant administration. But in the face of all this the cause itself continued to advance in the hearts and the patriotic affections of the Northern people. As our armies failed of success—as the expansive territory in dispute became anew deluged with the blood of our noble countrymen, shed in a fruitless effort at coercion; as the South grew more determined in proportion to the growth of disunion fanaticism in the North; as our resources of men and money alike approached depletion under the mal-administration and imbecility of those in power—as the burdens and oppressions incident to civil war began to be seen and felt, and as the returning reason of the American people of both sections began to enable them to realize the character of the awful abyss into which they were plunging, it was now that the blessed angel of peace began to be welcomed as the only saviour and hope of our distracted land. Reproaches and misrepresentations of our motives have now nearly ceased. Those who but yesterday charged upon us a design to divide the Democratic party, are themselves now loud in demanding a recognition of our principles as a part of the national platform; while some of "the loyal," who have heretofore sustained this Administration, now cease to uphold that tottering dynasty, making its refusal to listen to peace propositions from the South the grounds for severing all connection with the falling fortunes of the powerless despot whose throne is thus seen to crumble to decay. We do not pretend that by our exertions this change of opinion has been effected. It is to the truth and justice of the cause, and the returning good sense and patriotism of the people that it may be mainly attributed. Let it be the mission of the Democratic organization to consolidate this sentiment and make it effective at the polls. Let every man who loves his country urge on the recognised leaders of this party the impolicy of furthering a continued prosecution of the war. Let the Democratick party be true to itself and return to the revered and time-honoured principles of which it was originally founded by the great Jefferson. Let it respond to the pervading belief that this war cannot and should not be longer waged against sovereign States—and that it is only by conciliation and assent that a noble people, "who know their rights and dare maintain them," can be kept within those political bonds which were made for "domestic peace and tranquility," and not for domestic war, violence and bloodshed. We offer the following resolutions as further expressive of our sentiments:

RESOLUTIONS.

Resolved, That this country has been passing through one of those fearful political convulsions so frequent in history, when violence attempts by force to undo the work of sages and patriots, and thus, by resort to the brute power of physical compulsion, subvert the fundamental principles of free governments, created by divine inspiration and acting through the genius of man.

Resolved, That it is with deep and heartfelt gratitude to God that we now behold a visible subsidence of the excitement and passion which has accompanied this convulsion; that we think we see that the political and moral tempest which has swept over our beloved land with such devastating effects has about exhausted its power, and that a season of returning calm and love of country is about to replace it, in which it will be the duty of the patriot to build up anew the splendid fabric which suicidal hands have attempted to destroy.

Resolved, That with these feelings and in this spirit we call upon the American people, irrespective of party or complicity in the dreadful past, to aid us in our efforts to take advantage of the lull in the storm to obtain a permanent suspension of hostilities, and for the initiation and perfection of some mode of conciliation and reconciliation which shall again unite our country on a lasting basis of peace, prosperity and fraternity.

Resolved, That, speaking for the many thousands here assembled, gathered together from every county of the State of New York, we believe that it is the duty of the coming convention, to meet at Chicago on the 29th of August, to give expression to this beneficent spirit of peace, and to declare as the purpose of the democratic party, if it shall recover power, to cause this desolating war to cease by the calling of a national convention, in which all the States shall be represented in their sovereign capacity, and that to this end an immediate armistice shall be declared of sufficient duration to give the States and the people ample time and opportunity to deliberate upon and finally conclude a form of Union.

Resolved, That if in the platform and candidates of the Chicago convention, the now pervading peace sentiments of the country shall be disregarded, and that body shall place another war candidate before the people, making a third party of this character entering the canvass for the Presidency, there will be no real issue to decide at that election.—Each party and each declaration of policy and principles will be alike on the fundamental question of the day, viz: Shall it be peace or shall it be war? Therefore, we enjoin upon that convention the folly of aiming to obtain a portion of those who are already war pledged. The candidates already nominated represent all who cling to the war, and it is found policy to gather together under our banner all who entertain the opposite sentiment, and are in favor of restoring the country to its former condition of prosperity and happiness, only to be obtained by the election of a peace President, pledged to the support of a peace policy.

Resolved, That we offer our solemn protest against the usurpation and lawless despotism of the present administration, as subversive of the constitution and destructive to the liberties of the people. It has denied to sovereign States all constitutional rights, and thereby absolves them from all allegiance. It has trampled down a nation that it may instal a military despotism upon the ruins of constitutional liberty. It has and is still waging a bloody and relentless war for the avowed purpose of exterminating eight millions of freemen from the homes of their fathers, and blotting from the American constellation one half of the States of the Union. It has sought to arouse and enlist the most wicked and malignant passions, reckless of all ends, if it but subvert the existing government and immolate American citizens. It has struck down freedom of speech and of the press. It has stripped from the American citizen his panoply, and consigned him to the bastile without process of law, without charge and without the opportunity of trial. It has, by military, violently suppressed the freedom of the ballot and dictated elections at the point of the bayonet. It has annulled every constitutional guarantee for the protection of the citizen and subjected him to an irresponsible tyranny of military violence.

Resolved, That to the end that such wrongs may be redressed and evil removed, and the liberties of the people under the Constitution re-established; that a free canvass and a free and unrestricted election is not only a means of preserving these essential rights, but is the very end for which government itself is instituted and must be preserved at all hazards; and we warn this administration to desist its encroachments upon the rights and liberties of the citizens of our State, and resolve that we will not tolerate the rule of martial law, of military interferences with elections, or any arbitrary arrests of our citizens, to the maintenance of which we pledge our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor.

Resolved, That the reply of President Lincoln to Messrs. Clay and Holcombe, that any propositions looking to the establishment of peace on the basis of the integrity of the whole Union must, as a condition precedent, be also accompanied by the entire abolition of slavery before they can be entertained, is an official avowal that the object of the war is not for the restoration of the Union, but the destruction of slavery in the Southern States or permanent separation, and furnishes unmistakable evidence that the party now in power have deluded the people into the granting of unlimited means and money for the purpose of preserving the Union, which they have used and are still using for the base end of overthrowing State institutions, advancing party interests, and establishing them in permanent despotic power.

Resolved, That it is our bounden duty, and will be our glorious privilege, to hold in lasting recollection those fearless men who, in the national councils, in the press or in popular assemblies, were violating no law of the land, but, in defence of imperilled liberty, have stood up for the people's rights and declared for peace. We also shall not fail to remember those glorious men who, imprisoned in bastiles, driven into exile, subjected to gross indignities or suffered injuries, reproaches or the loss of liberty and property. And the Democratic party hereby solmenly pledges its faith and honor that all such persons (and their families, should their own lives be sacrificed,) shall be distinctly remembered and abundantly rewarded and honored in due time. And we now most distinctly announce that such sacrifices in defence of imperilled public liberties, in this eventful crisis, will, first of all, be considered in the day, which we trust is not distant, when the great Democratic party shall be reinvested with the reins of national government.

Resolved, That to the end that the opinions and principles of the peace Democracy of this State, as expressed herein, may be represented at the Chicago convention, and may be properly urged on that body for consideration and adoption, we hereby appoint the following named gentlemen a committee of one from each Congressional district to represent us for that purpose, and, while we disclaim any intention to dictate to or to disturb the harmony of that body, we, at the same time, claim our right to make suggestions and to present views in favor of correct principles and sound policy.

From the Trans-Mississippi.

We have some very agreeable and interesting advices from the Trans-Mississippi Department. From late orders issued from headquarters we learn that General Buckner succeeds Gen. Walker in command of Western Louisiana; Magruder takes the Department of Arkansas, and Walker commands the Department of Texas. Brownsville, Texas, has been evacuated by the Federals. This takes the last Yankee foot from Texas soil. We have other good news from that quarter, which is embraced in the summary below:

Price is said to be moving on Missouri.

Lieutenant General Dick Taylor was at Alexandria.

General Maxey attacked a camp of Kansas troops within six miles of Fort Smith. He reports the capture of one hundred and fifty prisoners, (Sixth Kansas cavalry,) three hundred small arms, and four hundred six-shooters. He has pushed Generals Gano and Standwatie towards Kansas.

Gen. Joe Shelby is playing sad havoc with the Yankees on the Missouri border. He reports over three thousand recruits since his advance.

Texas is free from the tread of the enemy. Louisiana nearly so, Arkansas is in a fair way to be recovered, and Price, it is known, is "biding his time" for a telling blow for the disenthralment of his own State.

At last accounts General Steele was at Little Rock, but so exhausted in strength as to have little power to harm.

The new departments inaugurated by Congress at its last session are getting into successful operation, and promise to realize all that was expected, and the spirit of the people is bold, cheerful and confident.

In a word everything in the Trans-Mississippi Department is represented as in excellent condition, and the crops are splendid.

RETURNED BY FLAG OF TRUCE.—The following North Carolina officers paroled and returned from the North, came up on the last flag of truce steamer, viz: Lieutenants J. A. McArthur, 51st regiment; R. W. Belo, 56th; H. McEachern, 51st.

CAMP 48TH N. C. T., Aug. 22, 1864.

Editors Confederate: On yesterday, the 21st, our brigade (Cooke's) was ordered to support Ransom's Brigade in an attack upon the enemy, who still holds, as you no doubt have already learned, the Petersburg & Weldon Railroad; and although we did not have to do any actual fighting, our brigade suffered considerably from shelling, in a charge we made on the Yankee lines. Below please find list of casualties in the Brigade:

FIFTEENTH REGIMENT.

Serg't Major E Porter, wounded slightly in shoulder.

Company A: Wounded. Private George A Jones, severely in side; Peter H Jones, breast severe.

B: Killed. Acting Lieut. W P Richardson. Wounded, Private R G Ervin, severely in side; H B Nott, slightly in arm.

C: Wounded, Serg't M Jarrald, slightly in face.

D: Wounded. Private G T Morgan, head severe.

E: Capt W H Ballard, missing. Wounded, Privates Jno R Card, J G Clayton, B G Marton, G S Strickland.

F: Wounded, Serg't S Patterson, in foot, slight; Private W B Smith, in foot slight.

G: Wounded, Serg't L C Gupton, in leg, slight.

H: Wounded, Lt D S Thompson, left arm, severe; Private Wm Ray, slightly in hand.

I: Wounded, Serg't J C Bass, slight in hand; S A Harris, lost left leg; Private L Waddell, mortally wounded, since died.

K: Serg't J H Dillard, jarred by shell.—Wounded, Private David Koonce, slight in face; D S Hartly, severe in hand; W G Williams, jarred by shell; R H Brozwell, (courier to Gen. Cooke,) severe in arm.

In 15th Regiment—Killed 1; wounded 24; missing 1; total 26.

TWENTY-SEVENTH REGIMENT.

Company A: Privates R Ward, jarred by shell; L E Watson, shot himself in hand (accidentally)

E: Wounded, Private Sam'l Carson, slight in shoulder.

F: Killed, Private John Miller.

G: Killed, Private S G Lockhart and E S Faucett. Wounded. Private J C Hanner, in back slight; M Adams, in foot slight; P Mebane, in hand slight.

H: Killed, Capt. Manker. Wounded, Jno A Williams, shoulder; Serg't J H Little, in wrist slight; Privates W R Overton, in head, severe; W H Stanson, in side slight; J Newsom, shoulder slight.

Killed in Regiment, 4; wounded, 11—total, 15.

FORTY-SIXTH REGIMENT.

Co B: Killed, privates S Moss. Wounded, private C A Waggoner, J G Edward.

E: Wounded, Corpl E Harris severe, private C H Grissom severe.

F: Killed, Capt Thos Branson. Wounded, private G Jerrold.

G: Wounded, private H B Steed in leg, J C Varner finger, E P Stinson severe.

H: Wounded, privates Abel Riddle, shoulder, T E Hair shoulder and neck.

I: Wounded, private W S Kendall severe.

K: Wounded, P E Arney.

Killed in regiment 1, Wounded 12—total 13.

FORTY-EIGHTH REGIMENT.

Co. A: Wounded, private M M Howie severe.

B: Wounded, private W A Dair severe.

D: Wounded, private W H Bicker.

F: Wounded, private A M Nesbit severe. Missing W M Whorters.

H: Wounded, privates Geo Easter, Casper Black, Jno K Lambeth severe, Micheal Hartly.

I: Missing, private E H Hinson.

Wounded 9, missing 1—total 10.

RECAPITULATION.

15th Reg Killed 1, wounded 24, missing 1.
27th Reg killed 4, wounded 11, missing none.
46th Reg killed 1, wounded 12 missing none.
48th Reg killed none, wounded 9, missing 1.
Total, killed 6, wounded 56, missing 2.
Total casualities in brigade 64.

Private L. D. Smithdeal Co C 48th Reg. died at Winder Hospital of dysentery, August 14th 1864. Yours truly,

DAN.

HEADQUARTERS 28TH N. C. T.,
August 19th, 1864.

A list of casualities in the 28th N. C. T. August 16th.

Co A—Killed none. Wounded private J. H. Walker. Missing none.

Co C—Killed none. Wounded private J. P. Spencer. Missing none.

Co E—Killed none. Wounded none. Missing private C. T. Sides.

Co F—Killed none. Wounded Corpl J N Marler. Missing private L H Speer, W A Speer and R M Rash.

Co H—Killed private J C Holler. Wounded Sergt M M Jolly and Noah Cline.

Co I—Killed none. Wounded none. Missing private J H Martin.

August 18th.—Co B—Wounded private Albert Davis.

Co C—Wounded private William A Martin.

Co G—Wounded private W Durham.

Recapitulation, Killed 1, Wounded 8, Missing 5—Total 14.

R. S. FOLGER, Adjt.
28th N. C. T.

North Carolina papers please copy.

From East Tennessee.

We are under obligations to Major Wallace, President of the East Tennessee and Georgia Railroad, for some interesting and cheering news from East Tennessee and other points.

We have intelligence that Gen. Vaughn has been placed in command of our forces now advancing on Knoxville and Lower East Tennessee. The latest news locates them at Balls Gap. No doubt the plan is to co-operate with Gen. Wheeler.

Captain E. Carnes, of Bradford's Regiment, Vaugn's Brigade, whose gallant escape from Andy Johnson's Nashville prison we noticed some weeks since, it seems with his company, has been watching the Hawassee and Tennessee Valleys. He has captured a number of Yankees and bushwhackers, destroyed a considerable amount of sutlers' stores and supplies and retaliated on several of the East Tennessee tories for their brutal treatment of Southern families.

Captain Carnes says the crops are in fine condition in that section, and that so far our friends have had enough to live on. The determination to be independent of Yankee rule is more intense than ever. You can give a Southern woman a letter, and if important to the cause, it will travel forty miles per day. No doubt Captain Carnes was with Col. Rowan (of the same brigade) in his raid on Loudon bridge. This bridge crosses the Tennessee river 30 miles south of Knoxville and is 1,700 feet long instead of 780 as stated yesterday.

THE CONFEDERATE.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 1864.

The Country is Safe.

The few unimportant reverses measure nothing in the length and breadth of this struggle. It is now a universal people, conscious of right, strong in their resolves, and reliant in their faith on Divine Providence, that maintains the contest. We may suffer disaster—it is the fortune of war. It may dispirit us, and to our sorrows may be added the croakings of those who anticipate reverse, and the equivocal, scarce restrained satisfaction of the disloyal. But no spirit is broken by reverse. Determination is strengthened, and resolve maintained. We see unquestionable tokens of exhaustion with our enemies. We see among them division, discord and separation. We are on the eve of a rupture which will sever every cord that attaches them. The "Sentinel" in Richmond at the centre, on the observatory, seeing the contiguous and the remote signs, and a truthful journal, fairly presenting events and their consequences, cheers us in the assurance that "time" is working for us No note of discouragement comes from Davis or Lee. Both are true men, and both will give timely warning if peril be near. Listen not to croakers. All works well. A few days will strengthen our cause. The crisis has been met. It is not upon us as it was in the days of June. "Be patient and wary." Strengthen the arm of government—give confidence, force and means to the cause—for "all works well."

Since we wrote the foregoing—that "all works well," the telegraph has brought the gratifying intelligence of a signal success near Petersburg. On the 25th, in the evening, the enemy was stormed in his works on the Weldon railroad—those tremendous fortifications which had risen like magic—and on the second assault his entire lines were carried, with heavy loss to him and a comparatively slight loss to us.

It added to this cheering news, that the North Carolina troops of Cook's, McRae's and Lane's brigade, bore a conspicuous post in this important operation. The other force engaged was Wilcox's division under Connor, with Pegram's artillery. The cavalry of Hampton, carried one line by an assault of great gallantry. Seven stand of colors, 2,000 prisoners and nine pieces of artillery, substantial tokens of victory, were captured by us.

What makes this significant as an affair of importance, is the expression of gratitude to God, and thanks to the troops, with which Gen. Lee solemnly closes his dispatch. No doubt Gen. Lee is always grateful for every favor of Providence, in however small measure it may be vouchsafed; but little favors he feels silently, returning the obligation of gratitude according to the gift bestowed. But a CROWNING mercy, makes his heart glad.

He communicates by public proclamation his thanksgiving, that the nation may rejoice with him. The hand of the Almighty has been visitibly with our cause and on our side throughout this campaign. Without His help, we could do nothing.

We may expect to hear further and better news still.

That from the Southwest, to the rear of Sherman, is gratifying. Wheeler has done heavy damage on the line of Sherman's communication.

The Railroad is said to be wrecked from Acworth to Dalton—the bridges destroyed, the track broken up, and supplies captured. At last accounts Wheeler was lost sight of, near Dalton, and since then the enemy says his "movements have been mysterious." Forrest in his official report does not mention the capture of Memphis, but only his attack upon the place. He will no doubt play his part in the "long taw" game upon Sherman. The Georgia papers are buoyant and confident.

The latest Nothern dates betoken considerable elation over the move on the Weldon Railroad. The yankees were rejoicing just about the same time that respectable frogs here were croaking that they were fighting in the streets of Petersburg, and thirty million of yankees had got on the Danville line. The fact is, these frogs have a jocundi of grief under these fictitious disasters, which half redeems the pain of suffering and makes sympathy less burdensome. There is a PUFF about their sorrow, as the swell of a wind-gall: it is a pleasant rather than a painful operation, to prick it. The slightest success to our arms, like caustic to a sore, relieves them by substituting a new inflammation.

From the trans-Mississippi, the intelligence is equally cheering. The enemy have wholly abandoned Texas—Magruder is removed to Arkansas—the yankee Steele seems to be almost shut up in Little Rock, powerless for harm—Shelley is recruiting largely on the borders of Missouri, and Price is waiting till the corn hardens in the field, to fetch his swoop upon his native State.

The Chicago Convention meets to-day, and all signs indicate a candidate on the plain issue of peace. Gen. Lee's delegate of last Friday, who has just received his appointment, will carry great weight.

Mr. Benjamin's Circular.

The expose from Mr. Benjamin on the late Peace interview in Richmond, is published in the Richmond papers. We will publish it to-morrow. It sets at rest the various surmises and misstatements which from Messrs. Jacques and Gilmore, as also from other sources, have been put in circulation; by some of which President Davis has been made to utter sentiments breathing war, in the most unchoice phrase.

It simply appears that two rather obscure persons for a great empire, came towards our lines at the desire of Mr. Lincoln, the "so-called" President of the Federal Government, possessed fully of his views, and seeking an interview with President Davis, the actual chief Executive of the federation of States known by this time throughout the world, as the SOUTHERN CONFEDERACY. They came also, besides the unfolding of Mr. Lincoln's ideas and expectations, to elicit the views and hear the sentiments of Mr. President Davis; their expectation being to inaugurate more formal peace negotiations.

As evidence of their authenticity, they were furnished to Gen. Grant with a letter from Lincoln, asking his interposition to obtain their entry into our lines; and in accordance with this letter, Gen Grant addressed the request to Gen. Lee, asking an allowance for them to meet Mr. Ould, our Commissioner for the exchange of prisoners. This was referred to the President, and his assent obtained. When bro't in contact with Mr. Ould, they expressed a desire to visit Richmond for an interview with President Davis. This wish was gratified, and Mr. Ould was sent to fetch them, with instructions to arrange their reception and to hold them under befitting surveillance. They were established at the Spotts wood House, and from thence opened communications with Mr. Secretrry Benjamin. This note fully explains their position, and upon it they were admitted to an interview, at his office, with the Secretary of State.

Upon their assurance, that though they came unofficially yet they were "possessed of the views of Mr. Lincoln;" that they came to "have an informal understanding preliminary to more formal negotiations," and that "their OFFERS OF PEACH PROPOSITIONS WOULD BE HONORABLE TO THE CONFEDERACY," they were promised a reception from President Davis; and at nine o'clock of the designated evening, they were permitted to wait upon His Excellency, at the office of Secretary Benjamin. At that reception, they were encouraged to state their objects and expectations; and in a very few moments Mr. Gilman, who was the spokesman, discovered that their visit was based on some expectation of a readiness on the part of our government to accept peace on the foundation of reconstruction—to acquiesce in the abolition of slavery—and to receive the grant of an amnesty, as repentant criminals.

Upon the question of abolition, a vote of the people North and South was to be taken, the majorityy to rule. It appears that Mr. Davis gave to these propositions that courteous bearing which distinguishes his official intercourse with all persons—fairly responding that the Government could not constitutionally speak for the States on the slavery question, as that was a State institution, under the control of State legislation—a fact which he happily reminded Messrs. Jacques and Gilmore to be one of sufficient notoriety as to be within the scope of Mr. Lincoln's information. President Davis did but little more. He stated that Mr. Lincoln's views with his abolition by a majority vote reconstruction and amnesty for criminal conduct, was simply a submission to mercy, and a surrender at discretion THAT EXTERMINATION WAS PREFERABLE TO SUCH DISHONOR.

In this resolve he will be borne out by the moral, intellectual, and physical force of the nation. His sentiment embraced in this almost a single word, is of the force of a volume, of unimpeachable authority.

The two left Richmond the succeeding morning, having bespoken for the interview that confidential esteem which was to retain it a secret between the parties But no sooner do they get home on yanke ground they blurt it out, and accompany the narrative with that amount of fiction which makes productions from yankee authors savor more of romance than history.

It is not complained of that they enlarged the number of their confidantes and the borders of their SECRET. Perhaps they had the right, as it was theirs. Certainly we had neither wish nor motive to preserve the secret longer than they desired; and now Mr. Benjamin's statement is only to PRESERVE THE TRUTH

The material fact is, that Lincoln made the approach. That though he did it under the usual cover, it was done with more of respectful courtesy than has been his habit That some pressure has inclined him to a less brutal conclusion of the war than when he purposed to confiscate the property and hang the leaders.

But the exposure of this matter will still further satisfy the North, that Lincoln's terms of peace are intolerable to honorable men: that they really offer no conditions possible for the cessation of bloodshed.

Further: That the nigger-abolition stands as it has ever done before the Union; and that the war and carnage is yet as it has ever been, against slavery—not for the Union.

This is most desirable information for the Northern people. It will reach them in time for the Chicago Convention; and it will be a powerful ally to Wood, Long, Pierce, Valandigham, and all who favor a PEACE CANDIDATE. It will be accompanied by a short but pithy statement from Gen. Lee---on the line of the Weldon railroad---which will not be without ITS importance.

Progress of the Peace Feeling in the North.

Grant's complete failure in this campaign, and the frightful slaughter which has thus far marked all his efforts, have produced a great revulsion in the public mind of the North, and the masses are at last becoming thoroughly aroused to a true sense of their condition. On every side arises the demand of peace—The great popular demonstrations that have already taken place in several localities, show that the people of the North are growing tired of the war, and demand that it shall be stopped. Journals that were at one time earnest advocates for a vigorous prosecution of the peace, they no longer speak with bated breath and whispering humbleness; they say what they mean. The following extracts from the peace press as well as from papers that give a *quasi* support to the war, show what a great change has taken place, and is still going on in the public mind:

[From the New York Tribune.]

We feel certain that two thirds of the American people on either side of the dividing line, anxiously, absorbingly *desire peace*, and are ready to make all needful sacrifices to insure it. Then why shall it be long withheld? Let us know, as soon as may be, the most that the rebel chiefs will do to secure peace; let us know what is the 'ultimatum' on our side. We have no sympathy with the shuddering dread that our government may, by listening to propositions from the rebels, virtually acknowledge their independence.—Etiquette is the disease of little minds, great souls are never troubled by it

[*New York Evening Post*]

The Opposition have set their hearts on restoring peace to the country. The object is laudable; and they judge rightly that the party which can accomplish it will win the approval and suffrage of the nation.

[*Rochester (New York) Republican*]

We go and the great mass of our countrymen of all parties will go, for Peace, if it can be had on the basis of a restored Union of all the States as States and a restored Constitution—even though such of the States as have not been freed remain slave still.

The growing cry for peace must be heard. The desire for peace has always existed among the masses of the people. They have advocated and supported war for nearly four years in order to put down the rebellion and secure peace. Peace, re union and happiness have to them formed the great end in view.

Mr. Lincoln's stipendiary presses can no longer shout "Copperhead" and "Traitor" at those who utter wholesome truths with regard to this war and the growing cry for peace.

[*Washington Constitutional Union*]

The cry for peace is rung into our ears from every section of the country—from all divisions and parties. Even the fanaticks have cooled down, in a measure, from their fury for blood, have lost their vampyre instincts, and horrified at the tales of slaughter they read, and shocked at the sights of hospital suffering, and of the maimed and crippled crawling about our streets, they even wish the termination of strife which, unprocreative of benefit to either party, even to the *medius terminus*, the negro, crushing the vital and social existence of both. Physical calamity constantly displayed before their vision, and high prices crushing out the means of comfortable subsistence, has at length softened the heart of the heardened abolitionist into a lurking yearning for the cessation of arms.

[*Dayton (Ohio) Daily Empire.*]

We can have no peace so long as the men are allowed to prescribe its terms. Let the people, in their sovereign might, command tha this cruel war be ended, and all differences between the States be submitted to the arbitrament of a convention.

[*Troy Daily Press.*]

To-day the people of the "loyal" and seceded States would be able to agree upon conditions of peace and stop the war. And it is the duty of the hour to hasten an opportunity for this, by shoving aside extreme men and placing in power those who believe that, in a government like ours, concession, conciliation and compromise are better remedies for differences than eternal strife and war.

[*Chicago Times.*]

The necessity for peace upon honourable terms is too imperative to permit its sacrifice to a blind, selfish or corrupt partnership. The alternatives now presented to the nation are peace with honour and war with dishonour; peace with preservation of life and war with its extended and murderous conflicts; peace with national and individual solvency and war with national and individual bankruptcy.

THE TRAITOR COBB.—Hon. R. W. B. Cobb whom a portion of the good people of Alabama were seduced into electing to Congress has turned up at Nashville, it is reported, en route for Kansas, or Washington.

THE TALLAHASSEE.—Late Northern papers announce that the Confederate cruiser Tallahassee has safely gotten out of the harbor of Halifax, and is again at large upon the high seas. As a matter of course, all Yankeedom is again in commotion.

[From the Petersburg Express of Saturday.]

FROM THE FRONT.

ANOTHER BATTLE ON THE WELDON ROAD—THE ENEMY ATTACKED AND DRIVEN FROM HIS WORKS—TWENTY-FIVE HUNDRED PRISONERS AND NINE PIECES OF ARTILLERY CAPTURED—BRIGADIER GENERAL CUTLER IS A PRISONER—GALLANT BEARING OF OUR CAVALRY.

The city was filled with rumors early yesterday morning of a heavy battle on the Weldon Railroad, fought Thursday afternoon, and as is usual very exaggerated accounts of the affair were circulated. Without stopping to enumerate these reports, we shall proceed at once to give what we belive to be an authentic version of the affair.

General Lee having ascertained that the enemy was moving his infantry from the front down the railroad for the purpose of tearing up the track, determined to make counter movements to check them. Accordingly, on Wednesday night Lieut. Gen. A. P. Hill moved from his position South of the city, and marching down the county roads, encamped in the vicinity of Reams' Station, ten miles from Petersburg, and on Thursday got his command in position for action, when the proper moment should arrive.

The enemy had erected a strong line of works on the road about one mile this side of Reams' station. A brigade of cavalry under command of the notorious Speer, were found engaged in tearing up the railroad track three or four miles the other side of Reams', with a heavy support of infantry in convenient distance. About eight o'clock a. m., General Hampton swooped down upon this cavalry force, and gallantly charging them, drove them from their work of destruction, and pressed them back behind their infantry support in great confusion.

Dismounting his men, General Hampton formed his line and attacked the infantry This fighting was sharp; but gradually and steadily he gained ground, and pushed the enemy back, until they reached their breastworks this side of Reams', capturing in the meantime, about 800 prisoners. Having thus accomplished his full share of the work, the fight ceased until our infantry could be brought into action.

About 5 o,clock p. m., Gen. Hill having reached a position on the enemy's flank, attacked their works, behind which a large force of infantry was massed, and upon which bristled a heavy line of cannon. Our troops moved foward in beautiful order to the attack, but before reaching the works, were checked by the terrible fire of grape, canister and musketry poured into their ranks. Such was the severity of the firing, that a temporary faltering was visible, but there was no retreat. The assaulting column threw themselves upon the ground until the supports came up, when with a yell they arose and advanced upon the enemy. The cannon and musketry firing from the enemy's works, was, if possible, now increased, but their desperation availed them not. Without check or faltering our men charged up to and over the works. Nearly if not quite two thousand prisoners, belonging to Hancock's (Second) Corps, were captured, with nine pieces of artilery.

The Yankees who were not captured in the assault fled in great confusion, dropping their guns and many of them throwing away everything that at all encumbered them. Col. Pegram, of Richmond, commanding a Battery of Artillery, turned the captured guns upon the enemy with most excellent effect, greatly assisting their speed and terror.—The enemy scattered in every direction, but our forces were unable to pursue in consequence of the lateness of the hour, and the near approach of night.

The captured guns are of the Napoleon pattern, beautifully finished and intact. They are just such as are needed in our army, and their acquisition will prove of no small benefit.

A very large amount of personal plunder fell into the hands our brave troops, and each and all of them secured something of value. Gold and silver watches, fine oil cloths, large sums of greenbacks, stationary, and every imaginable kind of Yankee "Notion" fell to their lot.

The battle here ended with the above result, and the enemy in full and disordered retreat towards their main position at the Yellow Tavern. Two or three hours more of daylight might have brought about a still greater change in the aspect of affairs.

We may be permitted to contradict a report which reached the city yesterday, regarding the behavior of a portion of our infantry force. It was stated that several brigades of the assaulting column failed to do their duty in the charge, and threw themselves upon the ground, while others were compelled to charge over them. The affair was grossly misrepresented. The leading troops in the charge were temporarily checked by the severity of the fire from the enemy's works, and at the moment threw themselves to the ground to prevent any greater destruction of life. When the supports came up they immediately arose, and charged on with them. The infantry behaved throughout in the most gallant manner.

Our loss for the fighting done was very small, and one thousand will cover it. Many of the wounded are but slightly hurt. We could hear of the loss of no general officer.

Up to dark last evening, about two thousand prisoners had been brought in, among them about one hundred commissioned officers from Colonel down Col. Cutler, acting Brigadier-General, is among the captured. The number of prisoners will reach over twenty-hundred. The enemy' loss is unknown, but believed to have been severe.

Hancock's corps was engaged in the battle, and probably other infantry troops, besides cavalry.

The loss of this corps on Thursday could not have been less than five thousand, and when this is taken into consideration, with the previous losses it has sustained, it may safely be said that it is nearly ruined.

Col. Speer was not captured, as reported. His flight was too rapid to admit of being overtaken.

The Weldon railroad has been torn up to a point four miles beyond Ream's station and the work pretty effectually accomplished. This road has proved a veritable trap to the unfortunate Yankees. Counting the raiders captured on its line from Wilson, the enemy has lost 10,000 prisoners in attempting to hold and destroy it. They have probably lost as many more in killed and wounded. It will yet prove their greatest disaster.

We still hold the works captured from the enemy, and we predict that our men will not be so easily driven from them, as the Yankees were.—From an officer who examined them, we learn that they are very strong, and very favorably situated.

We understand that Col. D. A Weisiger, of this city, commanded two brigades in the engagement, and that he acted with conspicuous gallantry, his men sharing in no small degree, the glory of the occasion.

There were only two casualities in the 12th Va. Regiment, viz: Sergt, J. R. Bell, Co. C, killed; and private S. W. Marsh, Co. I, wounded.

OUR CAVALRY IN THE BATTLE.

The conduct of our cavalry in the battle near Reams' Station, deserves especial distinction. They commenced the action early in the morning by a charge, in which Speer's squadrons were scattered and compelled to seek refuge behind Hancock's infantry. This famous corps, Hampton's chivalry prepared to engage without hesitation Dismounting, they rushed upon the enemy, and despite the advantage of his position, pushed him steadily until he found shelter in his works. Then awaiting Hill's attack on the flank, they again moved forward in concert with the infantry, and by their combined assault, easily drove the enemy from his stronghold.

Thoughout this engagement the cavalry exhibited the greatest gallantry. It is hard to distinguish among such uniformity of merit, but we understand special applause was elicited by the superb bearing of the regiments of Colonel Beale (9th Va.,) and of Colonel Roberts (2nd N. C.)

General Hampton again attested his pre-eminent qualification for the command of our cavalry.

COLORS CAPTURED.

Seven stands of colors were captured in the engagement.

WOUNDED.—We regret to learn that Capt. John A. Averitt, Jr., Co B, 32d and 58th Alabama regiments, was severely wounded on the 7th inst., in a heavy skirmish near Atlanta His right arm was broken a little above the elbow, rendering resection necessary, by which some two inches of the bone had to be removed.

Capt. Averitt is the son of our respected townsman, John A. Averitt, Esq., and is well known in this community as an intelligent gentleman, and as loyal and brave an officer as ever led a company into action.

The letter to his father, which we have seen, announcing the intelligence of his having been wounded, was written by the Quartermaster of the regiment, and speaks in the highest terms of his wonted bravery; stating at the same time, that this is the third time he had been wounded since the army left Dalton. He is now in the Hospital at Griffin, Georgia, where he has the attention of good Surgeons, a faithful servant, and, more than all, of the tender care of the patriotic ladies of that town. We wish him a speedy recovery and congratulate his friends on his providential escape from death.—*State Journal.*

It is reported that when the first Greek fire shell exploded in Charleston, a contraband clapped his hands and shouted: "See dar, Hell's laid an egg!"

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TELEGRAPHIC

REPORTS OF THE PRESS ASSOCIATION.

From Petersburg.

PETERSBURG, Aug. 26.—The affair on the Weldon railroad on Wednesday, was a very gallant one, and successful in its results. While the enemy's cavalry under Gen. Speer were engaged in tearing up the track several miles beyond Reams' Station, Gen. Hampton attacked and forced them back behind their infantry supports. Hampton dismounted his men and fought the infantry gallantly, steadily pushing them back until they reached their strong works one mile this side of Reams', capturing about eight hundred prisoners. At 5 o'clock in the afternoon General Hill attacked the enemy's works, and after a short but sharp engagement, took them, capturing a large number of prisoners and nine pieces of artillery. The enemy fled in great confusion. Col. Pegram, of Richmond, turned captured guns upon the enemy with great effect. The number of prisoners will probably reach two thousand.—Brig. Gen. Cutler was captured. The prisoners belong to Hancock's corps, and had been brought to town.

Considerable firing was heard down the road this morning, but no heavy firing.

Our cavalry acted with conspicuous gallantry.

From Atlanta.

ATLANTA, Aug. 26.—The enemy retired from our right and front last night. Our forces occupy their second line this morning. The enemy's lines from Decatur to Peachtree road are all abandoned, but they are still on our left and centre. Movements are intercepted as a concentration on our left and centre. Skirmishing this morning on our left. With the exception of three shells fired from the right last night before the enemy withdrew from that point, he has not shelled the city for twenty-four hours. Two deserters reached our lines yesterday. They claim to have been drafted in Dayton, Ohio, and were never mustered into service. They state that they came through on the road from Chattanooga, and heard no news from Wheeler.

Prisoners brought in this morning say that Wheeler tapped the road twice, which was repaired immediately, and the trains are running through. They also state that Sherman's army is on full rations.

[SECOND DISPATCH]

ATLANTA, Aug 26.—Since the morning, the enemy have retired from our extreme left. Prisoners state that trains came through from Chattanooga yesterday. The Chattanooga Gazette of the 22rd, says Wheeler destroyed the depot at Cleveland and burned the town.

[THIRD DISPATCH.]

ATLANTA, Aug. 26.—The enemy have massed his forces between Peach Ferry and the Camp road, and has abandoned his entire line on the right of the Chattanooga Railroad.

Sherman's order of the 28th directing the return of the raiders, was picked up in a deserted camp. There has been skirmishing on our left all the afternoon.

A special dispatch to the Cincinnati Commercial, dated Nashville, Aug. 18th, says the Rebel cavalry attacked Greysville on Tuesday. During the fight Gen. Stedman was seriously wounded and Col. Straight killed.

A dispatch dated Indianapolis, August 18th, states that as the time for the draft approaches, the people are becoming excited. There is great demand for substitutes of any and all colors.

From Mobile.

MOBILE, August 25.—Our flag of truce boat returned from the enemy's fleet last evening. The yankees say Fort Morgan was captured at ten o'clock on Tuesday last. On Monday the enemy centred a fire on the fort, which replied with spirit. On Tuesday the bombardment was renewed; it was said while the enemy succeeded in getting three howitzers in position and line of skirmishers on glacis of the fort which kept up a heavy fire on our guns and gunners with the assistance of the morter fleet, The assailants succeeded in damaging several gun carriages. Gen. Page destroyed everything in the fort. Having spiked his guns he capitulated. The garrison consisting of five hundred and eighty-one men, have been sent to New Orleans. Our loss 17 killed; number of wounded unknown.

Non-combatants are not allowed to visit this city. The enemy has thrown a force of 4,000 men on the main land at Grant's Pass, opposite fort Powell.

From Mississippi.

OSYKA MISS., 26.—Col. Scott fought the enemy in the suburbs of Clinton yesterday and drove them back one miles. The fight was desperate—our men charging gallantly. The enemy having receiving reinforcement re-occupied their ground and now occupy Clinton. The enemy's force is reported to consist of six thousand infantry, and thirty pieces of artillery. Prisoners captured state, they intend to remain at Clinton, but it is not believed telegraph communication open within four miles of Clinton.

From Vicksburg.

MERIDIAN, Aug. 26.—The lines at Vicksburg are completely closed for the next 20 days. Ingress and egress are not allowed under any circumstances. It is thought another movement is on hand, as all the persons in the city were being impressed by the Yankees.

The prisoners captured in Memphis by Forrest, left for Cahawba this morning.

From the North.

RICHMOND, Aug. 22.—The Washington Chronicle of yesterday says Memphis was attacked on the 21st. by Forest, with three thousand cavalry. They drove in the pickets and dashed directly to headquarters of Gen. Washburne, who made a very narrow escape. They then made a rush on Buckland's headquarters, who also escaped. They attacked Irving's prison and were repulsed by his guard. They next visited the Gayoso House and expected to capture Hurlburt, but did not succeed. Our troops now attacked the rebels and drove them from the city, killing 30 or more. Our loss in killed and wounded about the same. The raid of the rebels on the city was a complete failure, our troops being without leaders. The rebels carried off some plunder, and captured quite a number of prisoners

New York telegrams say that rumors are current there among the best financial circles that the Government desires to send five Commissioners to Richmond to arrange preliminaries for peace. Gold closed at 254¼.

The Governor of Ohio has issued a proclamation warning persons preparing to resist the draft to desist from such purpose.

Fernando Wood in his speech at Dayton asserted that he was a peace man, on the peace platform of the Chicago Convention. It is announced that Gov. H. Seymore will call the Convention to order, and Bishop Hopkins will open with prayer.

From Richmond.

RICHMOND, August 26.—The Confederate authorities have offered to exchange officer for officer and man for man with the Federal authorities. Heretofore the contention has been the delivery of excess of prisoners. Our Government insisting upon the cartel which required the delivery of all prisoners on both sides, the excess to be on parole. The Government now proposes that the excess remaining in the hands of the enemy until other captures are made. The offer though made early in the month is not yet accepted. The correspondence on the subject will shortly appear.

There are no longer any Federal troops on the mainland of Texas.

THE CONFEDERATE.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 1864.

More and more manifest every day, become the signs of a disposition to peace among our enemies; and as these signs multiply and obtain force, and show themselves, they elate and strengthen the confidence of our army and people, cheer their hopes and inspire their determination. And if any proof were wanting of the truth of what we have all along contended for, that the ill-timed and unwise cries for peace heretofore set up among ourselves, would encourage and help the foe, that proof is now felt in full measure by the corresponding results which their conduct produces upon us. Now *they* are distracted, divided and vociferous for peace, and *we* are confident, bold and victorious. Unquestionably, the mistaken action of many last fall, retarded the cause of peace; while now, with as little doubt, does the action of the North hasten its accomplishment. But in the main, we are indebted for its approaching consummation to the judgment, foresight and able executive management of President Davis, and to the series of hard-fought battles, the severe repulses of the enemy, and the hardy and unfailing patriotism of our military leaders and their followers.

The causes which now produce the earnest impressions for peace among the Yankee nation, are not transitory. The terrible events of this war are coming home to them and can no longer be ignored. They can no longer hide the folly of the idea that they can subjugate the South. The rampant notion of confiscating our estates, settling down upon our lands, enjoying our property, feasting in our homes and making serving women of our fair and virtuous daughters, has subsided before the stern and inexorable logic of dead corpses which glut their eyes whenever they look on our soldiers face to face in battle; and when they come to contemplate the after appearance of their thinned and demoralized ranks, all these inducements of gain—the only inducements effective with Yankees—vanish, and they are left without an object in carrying on the war. They see, too, the condition of the South. They see that we are bettering our means and preparation every day. Our inventive powers are exerted. Foundries, mills, manufactories, engineering and ordnance establishments have been constructed, enlarged and permanently worked; and in regard to all the actual wants of life and the demands for warlike material, the war has been for the Confederacy a season of development. They see, too, that we are *united*—that the wicked and cowardly elements of division, which ever and anon within limited spheres pandered to their success, have been dispersed, and that union, harmony and a bold confidence pervade the popular mind.

They see, too, that we cannot be starved out. The labor that they sought to interfere with and prevent, has remained true, and faithful, and efficient; and now, after all their efforts of the past fall, and notwithstanding their occasional successes, they see a larger territory planted in grain, and the prospects of a more abundant supply of food, than we have had since the war began. And more than this: They see that the exhaustion of men that they expected, has not occurred.—By some wonderful provisory management of our War Department, and by the extreme skill and caution of our Generals, our forces are preserved in the most extraordinary way; so that as their numbers diminish by *corps d' armee*, our thinned regiments are from time to time replenished, so as always to present the same secure front that they are wont to encounter.

But in aid of all these practical, tangible, material reasons for a change of opinion—reasons very strong with the Yankee mind—there are others to which they are not inaccessible, though of the moral kind. The Northern people begin to see that they have erred, and by their rulers have been compelled to commit a great crime; not that the commission of a great crime is repugnant to that nation; but this great crime has not, nor is likely to produce to them any advantage, but rather a horrible misfortune. It is a *bad bargain*. It has not and will not *pay*; and there being no *dollars* in it, it has no sense either. The Yankee nation begin to be convinced that *coercion* is a failure—that it ought never to have been attempted on sovereign States—that the dissolved *Union* never could be restored by force. They see this in the simple fact that they cannot hold a territory after they occupy it. It was not the dispersion of a mob that they undertook when they summoned their seventy-five thousand men to "crush the rebellion." It was the subjugation of a great, and powerful, and proud, and high-minded nation, that was intent upon independence, conscious of its inherent right to it, and determined to uphold and maintain it; and no matter at what cost, to secure and preserve its free nationality.

The North is becoming satisfied of all this. They show it in their newspaper press, in the action of their public meetings, in the outspoken speeches of leading men, and within a few days they will put it forth in the declarations of a representative body, whose announcement will carry a furor of enthusiasm. We view the situation with interest, as those who desire peace, and will welcome it; but are prepared yet further to struggle for it.

He who, in his perplexity, resorts to falsehood, may seem secure for a little while, but is sure to be soon overwhelmed with greater perplexity than before, just as the man who, in a shower, takes refuge under a tree, is protected at first, and then finds himself worse than ever.

Sulpher in the stockings is a recent European remedy for gout.

The Glorious Future.

Amid the gloom and sadness which the sacrifice of so many of our country's noblest sons has occasioned, it is consoling to look down the dim, distant aisles of the future, and contemplate the tranquil thrift and prosperity we shall enjoy in our dearly protected homes, and revel in the sure and noble grandeur and glory that shall crown our blood-baptised Republic. With God's constant blessings following us through all our trying struggles, like a halo of glory they will crown our ship of State as she rests secure upon our political Ararat, safely landed from the crimson deluge on which, tempest-tossed and driven, she has plunged through the fierce storms of revolution. 'Twill be a glorious boon—purchased by the dearest and most painful sacrifices, and therefore the more valued and venerated and worshipped.

And our fancy, fed by the certainty of realization, gathers inspiration as we dwell upon the fireside scenes, where shall be gathered mothers, wives and sisters, happy in the old homesteads, perhaps once desecrated and despoiled by the invader's foul pollution, but now restored to their wonted beauty and adornment. As father, husband and brother shall "fight their battles o'er again," they will tell of the parts they enacted in the stern drama, while tears shall overflow the eyes of the happy family groups all over the land, as they bring up from the treasure-house of love and adoration the remembrances of the worshipped ones through the sacrifices of whose heart's blood has been purchased their glorious and heaven-bestowed blessings of domestic happiness, social tranquility and national prosperity and greatness.

Amid such a scene, where Angels might well desire to linger, the true and faithful patriot in the days that "tried men's soul's," will always be a welcome guest—for he, too, has felt and suffered as these have felt and suffered, and now rejoices in his country's liberty and independence, as these rejoice.

But there are those whose presence from such a sacred scene will be spurned, as the mother would spurn from her household the appearance of the vile destroyer of virgin innocence amid the sweet bowers of home. These ostracised and hated characters will be those who, in the dark and fearful hours of our country's gloom and sorrow, spoke not a word to cheer the hearts and nerve the arms of her struggling, valiant sons—never directed to a ray of hope or bow of promise—never defied the mercenary rage or imprecated the vandalism of the barbarian foe that was crushing, and blighting, and stabbing all that was bright, and lovely, and sacred; and disgracing all that was noble and brave in manhood.—But whose "treason, like a deadly blight," was constantly manifested, in alarming the timid, in encouraging the disloyal, inciting rebellion and desertion among our troops by inveighing against the government in whose service they were enlisted, and in every manner discouraging our friends, while they failed in no manner, except in the overt act which would bring down upon their traitor heads the punishment so richly due to their crimes, to give aid and comfort to the enemies of their country.

To these, along with those who have openly and ignominiously deserted her colors and gone over to the vile foe, the day of inexorable punishment will then have come—which will be the scorn, contempt, obloquy and execration of every true and loyal son and daughter of the South; and with their ignoble posterity, to the tenth generation, they

> "——— will, doubly dying go down—
> To the vile dust from whence they sprung,
> Unwept, unhonored and unsung."

In the days of our rejoicing and festivals, their memories will be mentioned with loathing, and the concentrated odium of a free and noble people be heaped upon their names, as they are pointed to on the historic page, as objects to be hated and execrated by the offspring of all patriots in every land and clime upon the face of the earth.

More Depredations.

We continue to publish the outrages committed by deserters and desperadoes, so that the authorities, State and Confederate, may see the necessity for prompt and decided action.

A letter to the Editors of this paper, from Stokes county, says—"Deserters are quite numerous in the northern part of this county, and they have committed many depredations on the loyal citizens. I was informed yesterday that F. Ellis was killed a few days since. He has been a terror to the citizens for a long time. He was regarded as the leader of the deserters. I also understand that Lawson, another desperate character, was wounded in both arms.—An effort is being made to arrest them, and I hope will succed. A band of deserters have been robbing many citizens of Forsyth county lately—they spare all persons who voted for Holden, and only take from persons who voted for Vance. Two deserters were killed in Forsyth county last week."

The Asheville *News* of the 18th, says, "a member of the 14th Battalion informs us that Mr. Holcombe, a member of that Battalion, was bushwacked on the the 12th instant, while at work on his farm, two miles from Marshall. He was fired upon by three men, and instantly killed; afterwards, his body was riddled with balls, *and his scalp taken off!* The perpetrators of this shocking crime are known, and the avengers of blood are upon their track. A swift and awful retribution awaits them, if indeed it has not already overtaken them. Mr. Holcombe had been in the service three years, and was highly esteemed as a soldier and a citizen."

Most murderers die in a very pious frame of mind, expecting to go to glory at once; yet no man believes he shall meet a larger average of pirates and cut-throats in the streets of the New Jerusalem than of honest folks that die on their beds.

The Situation.

We have passed through this campaign with such unvaried success, that anything like a disaster or reverse, affects us as much as a victory to the enemy would under ordinary circumstances. Unquestionably the last move of Grant was a bold one, and conducted with much determination, and to a degree of success highly advantageous to the enemy. The possession of the Weldon Railroad, and the rapid establishment of entrenched lines, covering his flank and looking to his rear, renders it necessary for us to storm him in his works, or to leave him in control of this line of communication, and to this extent to deprive Gen. Lee of this source of supply. But this by no means gives the enemy either Richmond or Petersburg. On the contrary, it necessitates either the extension of his lines to such a degree as materially to weaken them, or else it removes him from his base of supply, leaving open a point between him and the river to the inroads of raiders from us. The Danville road is still left, and we presume every effort will be directed to secure it intact. Grant is not so near to it now, as he was when he occupied the Petersburg and Richmond road near the Half-Way House, and it is not possible that he can hope to extend his lines yet further to connect with it. He relies, undoubtedly, either on wholly destroying the Weldon road and moving by the flank towards the Danville line, or else he expects to damage the latter by raids from his present position.

Gen. Early has driven Sheridan back towards Harper's Ferry, without being able to provoke him to battle. He has, however, pursued him and captured many prisoners, and can either cross into Maryland with reinforcements, or else may complete his work of garnering the harvest in the Valley, at the same time threatening Washington and Pennsylvania; or he may dispatch a portion of his force to Gen. Lee, and be content to gather the crops and hold Sheridan in check, should he again move up the Valley.

From Atlanta we have had no news for some days. Wheeler is reported to have done much damage to his rear; and at last accounts there were two reports from Dalton, one allowing him successes at that point, the other contradicting it.

The report from Senatobia of the capture of Memphis, has not been confirmed, though there are circumstances corroborating it, which give us ground to hope that it may be so.—We have for some time been led to expect important and satisfactory developments from the Southwest, in a short time.

The guerrillas have made a daring entry into Illinois and are menacing South Indiana. Kentucky seems to be ripe for revolt; and we draw the most favorable auguries from the confident tone of the Richmond press.

What we want is *force*—MEN. If the unfortunate system had not prevailed of seeing how *few* could be got along with—if more rapid efforts were made to force back to duty the deserters who have abandoned their posts—if stern and prompt punishment were meted out to those who hold out against the offers of pardon and require to be arrested, and if the State is made too hot to hold them, the ranks of our armies will be replete. We understand that both the State and Confederate authorities are pushing with much energy to accomplish the work of reform in North Carolina; and it is to be hoped that the day is not far distant, when a recreant opposer of his country, nor the teachers of such opposition, will be allowed to rest a foot within her borders. All the evils of desertion which we now suffer, are clearly traceable; and it is a melancholy feature of our law, that the poor ignorant dupe is only to be reached and shot, while he or they who stimulated the discontent which led to the desertion, remain in impudent defiance of the public sentiment, and to the hazard of the public, to gloat over their escape.

If those who without counselling, nevertheless encouraged, or rather "egged it on," were held responsible, it would do more good than a line of battle extending from Moore county and Forsythe and Wilkes. That there are such men, everybody knows. In no instance should the perpetrator of personal violence be spared. For him there should be a speedy and exemplary punishment. We speak in the cause of human life, individually and collectively, and for the interest of the whole country.

Details.

We have examined the law allowing detail to producers on their giving bond to sell their surplus to Government at government prices; and we are satisfied that it embraces in the obligation all produce on hand—not the coming, but the existing produce also.

Yet there are many persons who are violating this obligation and are even selling last year's corn at over a hundred dollars a barrel. Every officer in the military service should put an eye on such men, report them, and have them conscripted at once.

A hundred dollars a barrel for corn! With such a crop of wheat, such a surplus of old corn remaining, with gardens filled with vegetables, and orchards with fruits, and the largest prospect of corn and peas now within a short period of ripening! Such a practice from any citizen, is war upon the Confederacy. We recognize how good citizens are drawn into the current of such practice, and it can only be remedied by the restoration of general confidence, and the social determination to uphold the currency. Communities acting in concert, alone can remedy the evil.

There are good men who have never followed the crowd to do evil—who have maintained low prices, and abounded in charity. Their names are known and are *honored*. They are serving the nation as usefully as soldiers in the field. There is every incentive to all men who love their country, to go and do likewise.

Courtesies to the Enemy.

General Beauregard has issued Special Order No. 15, ordering that no communication whatever should be held between our pickets and those of the enemy. Some Confederate officers, as well as soldiers, may read with advantage that order, which speaks of "the moral disgrace incurred by troops in anything like voluntary or unnecessary association with the savage foes, who are not only warring against us, but persecuting our women and children and destroying private properiy. The hands of such a foe are unworthy the friendly or courteous touch of a Confederate soldier."

The soul that prompted those words is in the cause. Earnestness of nature is as essential in a soldier as an orator. We would rather listen to one electrical out-burst of a "forest-born Demosthenes," than a dozen classical orators as perfect and as cold as the statues of the great masters. When the two are united, we have the highest style of eloquence; and when genius and patriotism are united in a military man, we have the model which all soldiers may do well to study. Such a warrior is Beauregard. He is not fighting for glory or the display of science. The powerful machinery of his intellect is moved by the inward fires of a fervid and intense devotion to his country. No one more clearly comprehends the nature of this contest, or the character of the enemy with whom we have to deal. A man of true humanity and gentleness, he has none of that false chivalry which fights wolves and panthers in kid gloves and recognizes midnight burglars and highway robbers as honorable foemen. "Order No. 15" is the true fire of the Southern flint.

A SUCCESSFUL CONFEDERATE RAID.—We learn from the *South Carolinian* of the 19th, that Col. Rowan, with 250 men, has just returned from a successful raid into East Tennessee, where he destroyed the splendid railroad bridge, 780 feet long, over the Tennessee river, at London, captured 75 prisoners brought away 700 pairs of blankets and 200 uniforms, besides destroying a considerable number of wagons and other property. The movement would have been a surprise but for the treachery of some person, who revealed the plan to the enemy and caused them to be on the alert. A fight ensued in consequence, during which we lost five killed and twelve or thirteen wounded, and the Yankees suffered a loss of about forty killed, besides a number wounded. Our forces consisted of soldiers recently exchanged, and started from a point near the Tennessee line.

From Petersburg.

We are permitted to make use of the following hurried private note for our columns:

PETERSBURG, August 21st, 1864.

I again report myself safe, not out of a fight, but out of the most extreme game of "prisonbase' you ever saw played. We charged the yankees on the Railroad, in company with Mahone's brigade and Colquitt's on their flank, and Heth in their front; we drove them at least a mile; they made no fight but surrendered by regiments. The number of prisoners taken will reach four thousand. Night came on and put a stop to the game. We have been strongly reinforced and so have the enemy. The fight was renewed this morning. The only information I have received is, that we have driven them from our line of breastworks and captured their line of skirmishers. Our brigade occupies its original position in trenches, about ankle deep in mud and water. The enemy has just made a heavy demonstration in our front, but we opened on them so heavily that they did not advance.

I wish I had time to give you a full account of the game of "prison base." Sometimes we were prisoners and then we would reinforce and capture our captors, and *vice versa*. We lost from our brigade only about twenty-five in missing and two or three casualities. It was decidedly the richest thing I ever saw. We were all drenched in the rain; in thick woods, got cut off, the moon not shining we soon got lost; came out about 10 o'clock at night completely broken down. Gen. Clingman was severely wounded in the calf of his leg. He is a gallant officer, he was right up with us all the time.

PROMOTED.—Capt. Edward Mallett, who has been in command of the 61st N. C. Regiment in the fights around Petersburg, has been promoted to the Majority of that Regiment—a promotion won by gallant deeds, and a position he has shown himself capable of filling with honor to himself and usefulness to the service.

For the Confederate.

List of Officers confined at Fort Delaware, belonging to the 1st Reg't., N. C. Inf'y:

Lt Col J N Harrell; Captains—H D Fowler, N J Whithurst, T L Johnson; Lieutenants—J B Coffield, E A Carver, W H Day, J M Guyther, J A Hartsfield, J M Harget, A J Howser, J A Latham, J J McMillian.

All well.

August 7th, 1864.

Some Yankee editors are under the impression that the "Rebels" in the Trans-Mississippi Department are endeavoring to cross the Mississippi, while others seem to think that a portion of Kirby Smith's forces are already *en route* to Hood's army. Some persons who live on this side the Potomac, and who pretend to be posted about such matters, are of the same opinion.

MULE BIRDS.—A British paper gives a report which will be interesting to many readers of the *Courier*, prone to bird-fancying or ornithology for sport or science. In an aviary at Christ Church, Hants, belonging to Mr. Hant, the naturalist and taxidermist, are three mule hybrids, between the pheasant and the bantam. Their plumage is very beautiful, partaking of both parents. The birds are quite tame.

A goose flies by a chart which the Royal Geographical Society could not mend. A true poet, like the goose, sails, without visible landmarks, unexploded regions of truth, which philosophy has yet to lay down upon its atlas. The philosopher gets his track by observation; the poet trusts to his inner sense, and makes the straighter and swifter line.

There are no longer any Federal troops on on the mainland of Texas.

TELEGRAPHIC.

REPORTS OF THE PRESS ASSOCIATION.

Highly Interesting from Memphis and New Orleans.

MOBILE, Aug. 21.

A special dispatch to the Mobile *Register*, dated Senatobia, Aug. 21, says:—We attacked Memphis at 7 o'clock this morning. Heavy firing was heard for three hours, and it is supposed the city has been captured, as the Federal force is reported small and unsuspecting.

A Federal force occupied Oxford to-day. The operator at Jackson reports a great riot in New Orleans. Four hundred citizens killed. The riot arose in consequence of Canby's attempt to enforce the draft. The negro troops have been called on to suppress the riot, which was still progressing.

All quiet in Mobile.

From Petersburg.

PETERSBURG, Aug. 20, 11 A. M.—Lt. Gen. A. P. Hill commanded our forces in the fight yesterday evening. Warren was strengthened by the ninth corps. The enemy were driven about three quarters of a mile in front, and back about two miles on the flank.

Twenty-two hundred prisoners, including ninety commissioned officers, were captured. Last night ended the fight, which was a very considerable affair. It has not been resumed thus far to-day.

The enemy still hold possession of the Weldon railroad. Our losses are not very heavy.

Gen. Clingman was wounded. Maj. Lawson, of the Fifty-fifth Virginia, killed. Enemy's loss is killed and wounded not ascertained. Yankee Gen. Crawford, reported by prisoners killed.

The usual artillery duel between midnight and day this morning between the lines in front of the city. No casualties reported.

From Atlanta.

ATLANTA, Aug. 19.—Heavy artillery firing occurred on our centre last night. The enemy's battery in front of the city opened a heavy fire, exceeding any yet, with 42-pounders. A Sawyer's shell exploded in a house, killing Capt. Jarson of the 14th Texas cavalry, and wounding several ladies and children. No other damage.

Kilpatrick instead of going after Wheeler as was supposed, turned towards the Atlanta and West Point road, which he struck at Fairburn and cut the road and telegraph. He has gone in the direction of the Macon road, and it is supposed thence to Andersonville, for the purpose of releasing the prisoners. His force is estimated at from 2,500 to 3,000. It is reported that Wheeler had burned the bridges at Etowah, Resaca, and Dalton. The enemy are there undoubtedly on half rations.

SECOND DESPATCH.]

ATLANTA, Aug. 22.—Kilpatrick's raid, composed of 2,500 men, crossed the Chattahoochee at Campbelton and struck the road at Fairburn at 3 o'clock on Friday morning, and destroyed the road for six miles. The raiders then crossed over to the Macon road, striking it at Lovejoy's on Friday evening, moving towards Jonesboro'.—The Federal infantry support, which accompanied Kilpatrick's cavalry to the West Point road, returned, and the cavalry proceeded along the road towards the Macon road. Ross' brigade skirmished with their advance, but was not able to hold the enemy in check. The raiders burned the Depot and Post Office at Jonesboro', destroying all papers.

On Saturday evening the enemy were surrounded between Lovejoy's and Jonesboro' by Reynold's infantry brigade, and Armstrong's and Ross' cavalry. A sharp engagement ensued, Kilpatrick charging at the head of his column.

The raiders, after being completely routed, charged Ross' brigade and cut their way out.—Our loss, ten killed. Enemy's loss, twenty-five.

The raiders being pursued by two Georgia regiments of cavalry, retreated through McDonough and escaped. Only a mile of the Macon road was destroyed, which has been repaired. The city is very quiet to-day. No shelling going on.

The enemy deny the charge of shelling the city, and claim that their shot are all directed at our defences.

Gararey's division of Cavalry has disappeared from Decatur. Nothing from Wheeler.

SPECIAL DESPATCH TO THE CONFEDERATE.

GOLDSBORO', Aug. 22.—Col. Kennedy is not dead. I have seen and talked with him in Goldsboro'. W. G. B.

BY THE GOVERNOR OF NORTH CAROLINA.

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS, IT IS REPORTED TO ME THAT many soldiers from the troops of this State have deserted their colors and commrades, and are now lurking in the woods and mountains, some of them subsisting by forcing their friends to violate the laws by aiding them and others by violent depredations upon peaceable citizens, entailing shame and obloquy upon themselves and their posterity, outraging the laws and the peace of society, and damaging the cause of their hard pressed country; and, whereas, General Robert E. Lee, in General Order No. 54, August 10th, 1864, has promised to deal leniently with all who promtly return to duty, though they may have incurred the penalties of desertion by prolonged absence without authority:

Now, therefore, I, Zebulon B. Vance, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do issue this my Proclamation, urging most earnestly upon all such misguided men to wipe out from their once respected names the foul stain of desertion, by promptly returning to the post of duty in accordance with said General Order No. 54, promising to all such who voluntarily return or surrender themselves to the proper authorities a full and free pardon, or the infliction of only the mildest penalties of the military law, except those who have been guilty of capital felonies against the lives and property of the citizens; and this promise shall hold good for THIRTY DAYS from the date hereof. And I hereby warn all such who refuse to comply with these terms, that the utmost power of this State will be exerted to capture them or drive them from the borders of a country whose high honor and spotless renown they disgrace by refusing to defend, and that the extremest penalties of the law will be enforced without exception, when caught, as well as against their aiders and abetters, in the civil courts. Simultaneously with this proclamation, orders will be issued to the entire militia of the State, to turn out for their arrest; and I hope, by timely submission, they will spare me the pain of hunting down, like guilty felons, many brave and misguided men who have served their country well and could do so again. Deserters from other States who hide in our woods and assist in giving our State a bad name, I can do nothing for, but to the erring soldiers of North Carolina, I confidently appeal. And I earnestly call on all good citizens to assist me in making this appeal effectual, both by their exertions as militia soldiers and their influence as men, to take pains to seek out all deserters of their acquaintance, put this proclamation in their hands, or in the hands of their relatives and friends, and urge upon them to return to the path of duty, which is also the path of safety and honor. If every good and loyal citizen would set about to reclaim or capture one deserter by every means in his power or, he would succeed, and he will have rendered a most valuable and patriotic service to his State and country. Civil magistrates are also exhorted to be diligent in proceeding against all such as violate the statute against harboring, aiding or abetting deserters, and warning is hereby given that in all cases where either civil magistrates or militia or home guard officers refuse or neglect to faithfully perform their duty in this respect, upon proper evidence submitted to me, the Executive protection extended to them under acts of Congress shall be withdrawn, as I cannot certify that officers, civil or military, who refuse to perform their duties are "necessary to the due administration of the laws," which they will not execute.

Given under my hand, and the great seal of the State, at Raleigh, the 24th day of August, 1864.

Z. B. VANCE.

By the Governor:

A. M. MCPHEETERS, Private Secretary, pro. tem. [aug 25-d6t-tri-w6t&w2t

All the daily papers in the State copy one week—all other papers, two weeks, and send bills to Executive Department.

Trinity College.

THE next session will commence on the 7th of September next. Tuition from eight to ten dollars per month, *in advance*. Board, one hundred dollars per month, payable *monthly*, in advance; or, about eight dollars per month, if paid in provisions at peace prices. There are small extra charges for washing and room rent. Students are requested to bring all the text-books they may be able to procure.

W. T. GANNAWAY, President.

july 29-w10t

Notice.—Taken up and committed to the Jail of Catawba, a dark NEGRO man about fifty years of age. Said negro says his name is PLEASANT, and that he is the property of Hugh Carlyle and Geo. Henderson of Georgia.

A. J. HELTEN, Jailor.

Newton N. C. April 13th 1864. ap. 20 12-w6m

NORTH CAROLINA,

LENOIR COUNTY COURT.

In the matter of the probate of the will of Henry A. Chamberlin:

IN this case, it appearing to the Court that Martha J. Burt, and any other heirs at law of said H. A. Chamberlin, deceased, and next of kin, are non-residents of the State of North Carolina publication is therefore ordered for six successive weeks, in the weekly Confederate, a newspaper published in Raleigh, N. C., notifying the heirs at law and next of kin, to appear at the Court House in Kinston, on the 1st Monday in January next, 1856, to witness proceedings in the matter of said probate and to make objections, if any they have, or otherwise be bound by said proceedings.

Witness: N. Hunter, Clerk of said court, at office in Kinston, 1st Monday July, A. D. 1864.

N. HUNTER, Clerk.

aug 19-w6w

MEDICAL DIRECTOR'S OFFICE,
GENERAL HOSPITALS, N. C.
Raleigh, Aug. 17, 1864.

[*Extract.*]

SPECIAL ORDERS, No. 102.

I. In compliance with the request of the Commandant of Conscripts in this State, Hospital Medical Examining Boards are ordered not to examine any soldier for a recommendation for an extension of his furlough, without he has an order from the Enrolling officer, as directed in paragraphs II. and III. General Orders No. 141, A. and I. G. O., 1863.

P. E. HINES, Surg. Med. Director.

aug 18 d3t-w2t

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, BURKE COUNTY.

COURT OF PLEAS AND QUARTER SESSIONS, JULY TERM, 1864.

Sarah Fisher,
vs.
Perkins Johnson and wife Elizabeth, George Fisher, James James and wife Sarah, Heirs at Law of Thomas Fisher, dec'd.

Petition for Dower.

IT appearing to the satisfaction of the Court, that that Perkins Johnson and wife Elizabeth, George Fisher, James James and wife Sarah, are non-residents of this State: it is ordered, that publication be made in the Weekly Confederate for six successive weeks, notifying said parties personally to appear at the Court House in Morganton, on the 1st Monday after the 4th Monday in September next, then and there to plead, answer or demur to said petition; otherwise judgment *pro confesso* will be entered as to them.

Witness, J. B. Kincaid, Clerk of said Court, at office in Morganton, the 1st Monday after the 4th Monday in June, A. D. 1864.

J. B. KINCAID, C. C. C.

july 26-w6w

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

ASHE COUNTY.

Superior Court of Law, Spring Term 1864.

John C. Plummer
vs. } Original Attachment.
Ralph Blevins.

It appearing to the satisfaction of the Court that the defendant Ralph Blevins is not within the jurisdiction of this Court: It is ordered that publication be made in the weekly *Confederate* for six weeks, commanding the said defendant to be and appear at the next term of the Superior Court of law to be held for the county of Ashe, at the Court House in Jefferson, on the 4th Monday after the 4th Monday in August next, then and there to plead and replevy in the said cause, otherwise final judgement will be rendered against him.

Witness E. C. Bartlette Clerk of our said Court at office the 4th Monday after the 4th Monday in February, 1864. E. C. BARTLETE, C. S. C.

June 29 w6t

GOOD NEWS! GOOD NEWS!! NEW BOOKS!

OUR OWN PUBLICATIONS.

Johnson's Common School Arithmetic,	$3 50
The Dixie Elementary Spelling Book,	3 00
The Jack Morgan Songster, ($50 per 100)	1 00
Love and Liberty—Song ($40, per 100)	76
The above books are just from the press.	
Primary Geography,	2 00
York's English Grammar,	2 00
First Book in Composition, by L Branson,	2 00
Hill's Poems, by Theo H Hill,	1 50
Morven and Linda, by Rev A W Mangum,	25
Dixie Primer, Pictorial, third edition,	50
First Dixie Reader, by M B Moore,	75
Myrtle Leaves, by Rev A W Mangum,	2 00

☞ The above books are sold at one-third off to the trade.

OTHER BOOKS ON HAND.

MISCELLANEOUS BOOKS.

Hunten's Piano Forte Instructor,	$ 00
Lander's Arithmetic,	2 00
Bingham's Latin Grammar,	4 00
Wesleyan Catechism No. 1,	25
Wesleyan Catechism, No. 2,	75
Lansdell's Catechism,	75
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